

1901



THE
GOLD FIELDS
OF
ALASKA
AND **YUKON TERR**'Y

VIA **NORTH AMERICAN
TRANSPORTATION
AND TRADING CO'S ROUTE**



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ALASKA

AND THE

GOLD FIELDS

—OF—

NOME, PORT CLARENCE
Golovin Bay, Kougarok
The Klondike

AND OTHER DISTRICTS



BY THE

NORTH AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION
AND TRADING CO.

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SALUTATORY



It will not do any longer to discuss the future or even the present of Alaska, "the great country," in rounded sentences and glittering generalities. One is prone to go into raptures over a superb, vigorous and invigorating climate, scenery, the like of which cannot be excelled for grandeur, sublimity and natural beauty in the whole world; a past filled with romantic incidents, stirring action, and the evidences of a marvelous prehistoric life, and in every rugged cliff, deformities due to Nature's convulsions in a time beyond the ability of man to compute.

But, the rapid changes that have occurred since the magic cry of "Gold" arrested the attention of the hardy and intrepid American miner, have served to dwarf into insignificance in the twentieth century materialistic mind whatever of romance or historic interest attached to Alaska; and it is the purpose of this little book to satisfy the inquiring business man, manufacturer, miner, merchant and capitalist on the score of his personal interest. It is his demand that a summary be made of actual achievement, and in its light to answer for him some vital questions: What has Alaska yielded as her part of the world's treasure house; what has she to offer of nature's wealth, and what has she in natural resources? Does she offer to the capitalist a fair return for money invested? Will the employment of brawn and brain yield a return equal to or greater than all other parts of the world? These are questions that are apropos of the day, and some of which it is purposed here to answer.

North American Transportation & Trading Co.

ESTABLISHED 1892

795-767-769 The Rookery
CHICAGO, ILL.

Pacific Coast Office
SEATTLE, WASH.

EXECUTIVE.

MICHAEL CUDAHY President
W. H. ISOM Vice President
R. B. SNOWDON Secretary and Treasurer



DIRECTORS.

MICHAEL CUDAHY Chicago, Ill.
JOHN CUDAHY Chicago, Ill.
W. H. ISOM Chicago, Ill.
F. B. WEARE Chicago, Ill.
C. H. WACKER Chicago, Ill.
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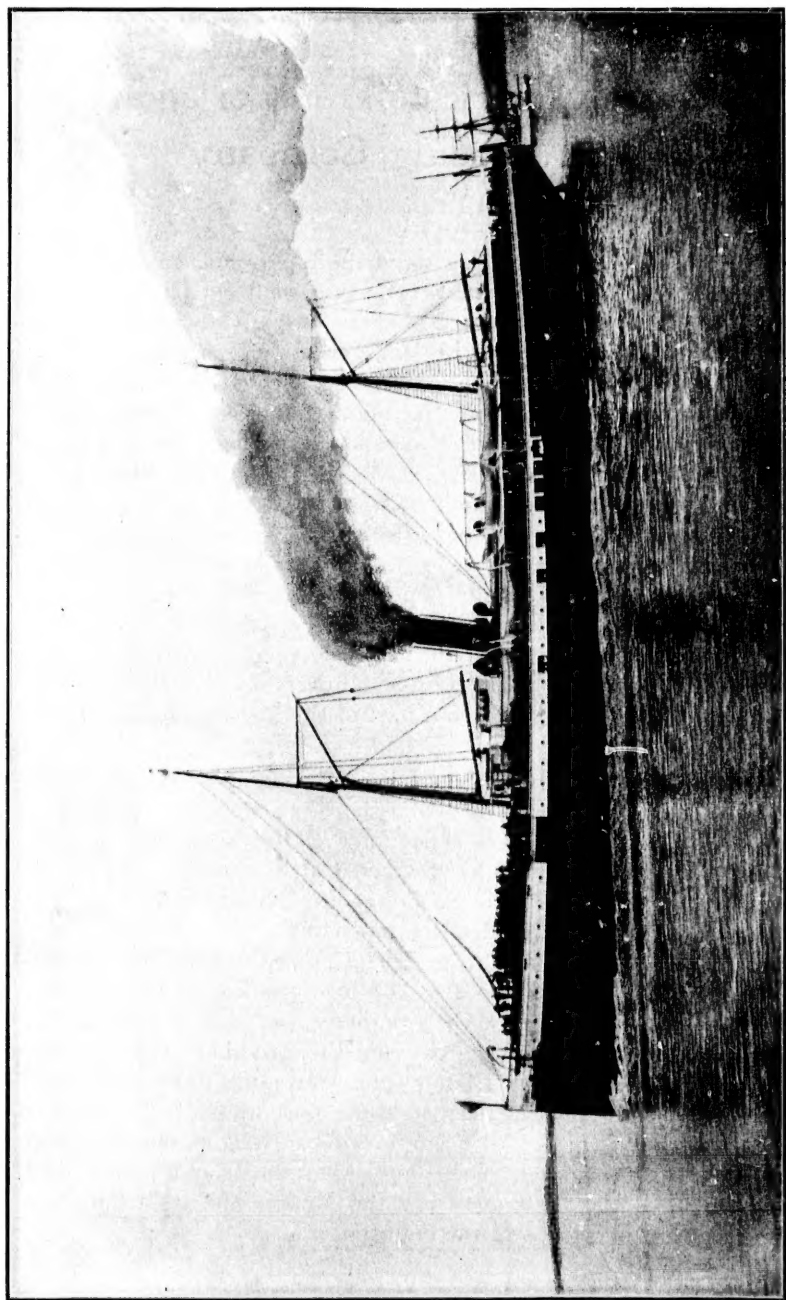
BOARD OF CONSULTATION.

THOMAS EDISON New Jersey
DR. H. SEWARD WEBB New York
DANIEL O'DAY New York

North American Transportation and Trading Company

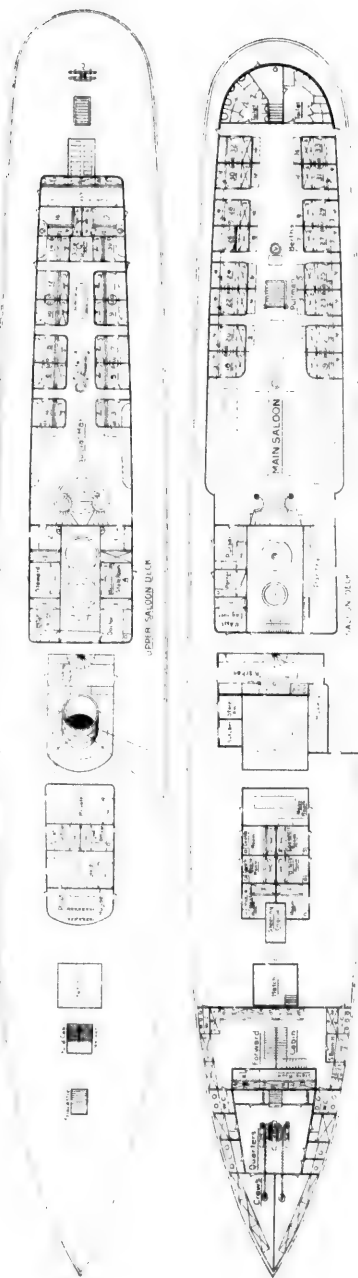
Perhaps in no other way could the innate and natural capabilities of Alaska be more clearly or convincingly set forth than by giving a very brief history of this Company, an organization that has grown from a small and tentative experiment a few years ago into what is today one of the largest mercantile concerns of the new world. Indeed, this Company's history is a part and parcel of the history of Alaska since the early days of 1892, when its first small beginning, for of all the factors which have entered into the development of this grand country none have contributed more largely than the North American Transportation and Trading Company, by its bold strike into the interior, the establishment of supply depots, where miners could secure the necessities of the existence and occupation far below that for which they otherwise could have had them; its complete and safe transportation facilities; its voluntary mail service in the old days; all these have been a part of the history of Alaska and of this Company.

In April, 1892, J. J. Healy, J. C. Barr and C. H. Hamilton chartered the steamer "Alice Blanchard" at Seattle, and, loading aboard material for the river steamer "P. B. Weare" and three hundred tons of supplies, they arrived at St. Michael in July of the same year. They got as far as the Nulato that year, the "freeze up" overtaking them at that point. The following summer they proceeded as far as Fort Cudahy, where they established their first trading post. The business has steadily grown since that time, until now the Company has trading posts at St. Michael, Weare, Rampart, Peavy on the Koyukuk, Fort Yukon, Circle City, Eagle, Fort Cudahy and Dawson. Many thousands of tons of supplies are taken to these post annually; a number of ocean going vessels are employed carrying passengers and freight to St. Michael, Nome and Aleutian Island points, and eleven of its river steamers ply the Yukon and its tributaries reaching into all parts of the country.



S. S. ROANOKE

NORTH AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION & TRADING CO.
S.S. "ROANOKE"



NORTH AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION AND TRADING CO'S FLEET

OCEAN STEAMSHIPS.

"S. S. ROANOKE"—Lloyds register, A1. Iron hull, three decks, single screw.

Length, 300 feet; beam, 42 feet.

Tonnage, 2,354; passenger capacity, 500; electric lighted.

Speed, 15 knots; draft, 19 feet.

Engines, Compound Surface Condensing.

Armament, one one-pounder rapid fire Maxim gun.

"S. S. SANTA ANA"—Lloyd's Register A1.

Length, 185 feet; beam, 37 feet.

Tonnage, 1,250; passenger capacity, 115.

Speed, 12 knots; draft, 16 feet.

Electric lighted.

RIVER STEAMERS—Freight and Passenger.

"WILL H. ISOM"—Now building; will be the most powerful and modern boat in Alaska.

Wood hull; tonnage, 500.

Stern wheel, flat bottom.

Electric lighted.

"J. C. BARR"—Iron hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.

Built 1898; registered tonnage, 316; electric lighted.

"P. B. WEARE"—Wood hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.

Built 1892; registered tonnage, 300.

"JOHN J. HEALY"—Wood hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.

Built 1896; registered tonnage, 320.

NORTH AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION AND TRADING CO'S FLEET

RIVER STEAMERS—Freight and Passenger—Continued.

- "JOHN CUDAHY"**—Wood hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.
Length, 190 feet; beam, 32 feet; electric lighted.
Built 1898; registered tonnage, 450.
Fastest trip St. Michael to Dawson, 12½ days; round trip,
18½ days.
- "C. H. HAMILTON"**—Wood hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.
Length, 190 feet; beam, 32 feet; electric lighted.
Built 1897; registered tonnage, 297.
- "T. C. POWER"**—Wood hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.
Length, 190 feet; beam, 32 feet; electric lighted.
Built 1898; registered tonnage, 482.

HARBOR BOATS.

- "KLONDIKE"**—Wood hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.
Built 1898; tonnage, 75.
Towing capacity, 500 tons.
- "ST. MICHAEL"**—Wood hull; flat bottom; stern wheel.
Tonnage, 60; towing capacity, 300 tons.

OCEAN SAILING VESSELS.

- "SCHOONER MARY ANN"**—Wooden hull; freighter; tonnage, 160.

TUGS AND LAUNCHES.

- "CELIA"**—Wood hull; tonnage, 60.
One tug now building.

RIVER FREIGHT BARGES.

- "J. J. MITCHELL"**—Wood hull; flat bottom.
Built 1898; tonnage, 180.
- "C. L. HUTCHINSON"**—Wood hull; flat bottom.
Built 1898; tonnage, 180.
- "NO. 3"**—Wood hull; flat bottom.
Built 1898; tonnage, 180.
- "JOHN H. DWIGHT"**—Wood hull; flat bottom.
Built 1898; tonnage, 600.
Six additional barges in course of construction.



SAILING DATES



From Seattle to Nome, Port Clarence and St. Michael, steamships "Roanoke" and "Santa Ana."

The steamship "Roanoke," U. S. mail carrier and treasure boat, will sail from Seattle on or about May 29th, and the fast and commodious steamship "Santa Ana," U. S. mail carrier, will sail from Seattle on or about May 27th, 1901, for Nome and St. Michael.

Connections with coastwise vessels will be made at Nome for Port Clarence, where are located the new camps of Teller City and Bering City and which will be the outfitting points for the Bluestone and Kougarok districts, making close connections at Nome with coastwise vessels for Port Safety, Topkuk and Golovin Bay.

At St. Michael connection will be made with this company's fleet of magnificent Yukon river steamers for Russian Mission (new trail to Kuskokwim river diggings), Holy Cross Mission, Anvik, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Weare (Tanana), Rampart, Fort Yukon, Circle City, Eagle City, Fort Cudahy (Forty Mile) and Dawson.

Some Alaska transportation companies may advertise sailing dates in April or early in May, but this company has been in operation the past nine years, and by actual experience has learned that from June 10th to 25th are generally the earliest dates for vessels to make their way through the ice of Bering Sea.

It is our aim to give the best and most satisfactory service possible, and for this reason we have decided on sailing dates as above in order not to keep our passengers at sea several weeks endangering their lives by ice which would be encountered in Bering Sea by sailing at earlier dates.

Sailing dates for season 1901 (subject to change without notice) will be on or about dates as follows:

S. S. "Roanoke"—May 29th, July 9th, August 17th, September 17th and October 22nd.

S. S. "Santa Ana"—May 27th, July 9th, August 26th, October 1st.

NORTH AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION & TRADING CO.

STATIONS

ALASKA

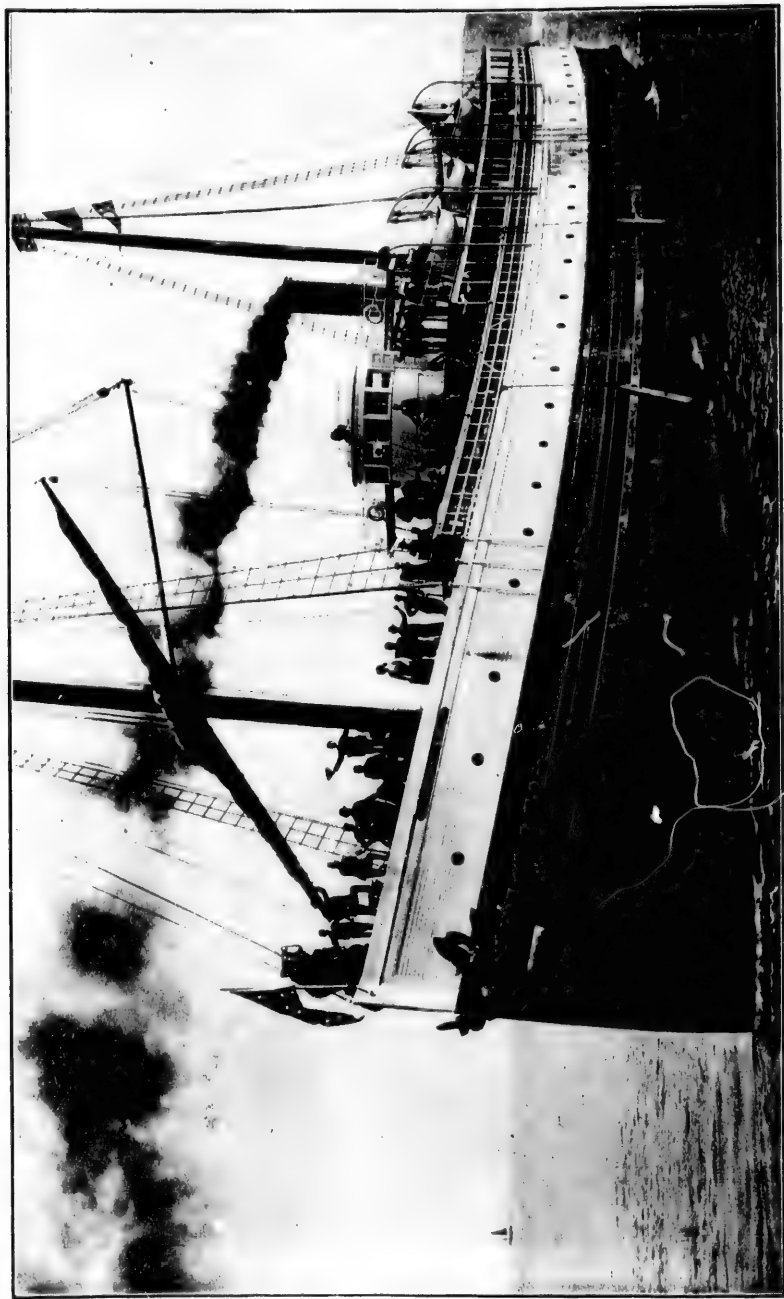
St. Michael.
Nome.
Port Clarence.
Council City.
Hamilton.
Peavy.
Weare.
Rampart.
Fort Yukon.
Circle City.
Eagle City.
Steel Creek.

YUKON TERRITORY

Forty Mile.
Fort Cudahy.
Dawson.
Grand Forks.



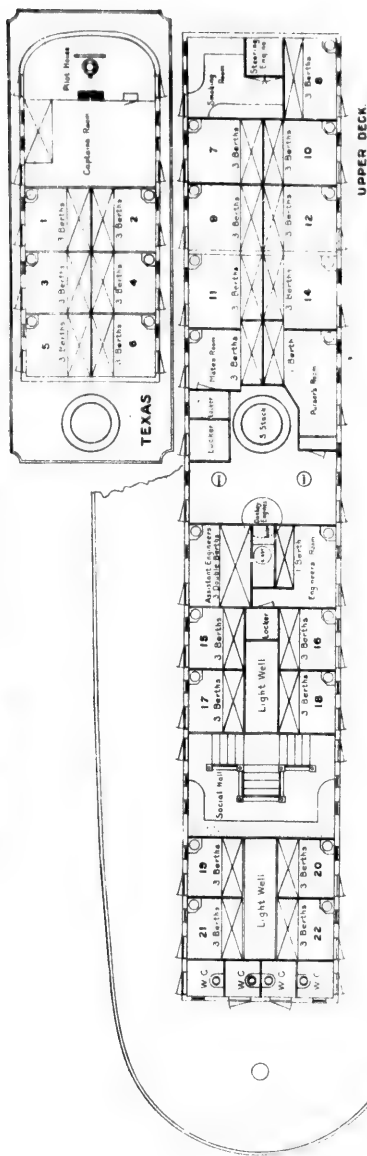
STEAMER P. B. WEARE WOODING UP ON THE YUKON.



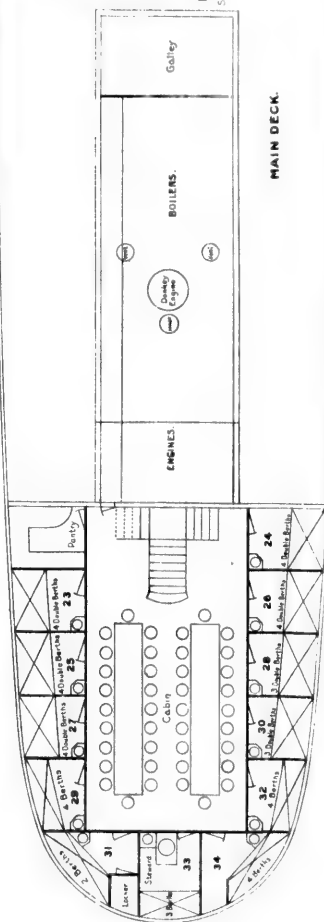
S S SANTA ANA

S S SANTA ANA

DIAGRAM S. S. SANTA ANA



STR. SANTA ANA



PASSENGER ACCOMMODATION.
 STATE ROOMS IN TEXAS: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34.
 IN CABIN: 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34.

TABLE OF DISTANCES

ST. MICHAEL TO:—

	<i>Miles.</i>
Pastoll (mouth of the Yukon)	65
Kootlik	80
Hamilton (warehouse)	100
Andreafski	210
Rosbrowski Village	255
Barr's Harbor	310
Russian Mission	320
Koserefski (Holy Cross Mission)	410
Anvik	460
Kaltag (portage to coast)	625
Kennicott Bluff	640
Nulato	650
Kobrinés	800
Weare (mouth of Tanana)	900
Rapids	935
Rampart City (Manook Creek)	975
Fort Hamilton	1,035
Mouth of Porcupine River	1,245
Fort Yukon	1,255
Circle City	1,330
Charley River	1,385
Seventy Mile Creek	1,440
Eagle City	1,475
Boundary	1,500
Squaw Rock	1,525
Cliff Creek	1,530
Fort Cudahy	1,540
Forty Mile	1,542
Fort Reliance	1,598
Dawson City	1,605
Indian River	1,633
Ogilvie	1,853
Stewart River	1,676
White River	1,686
Half Way	1,706
Selwyn	1,751
Selkirk	1,781
Hutchiku	1,819
Five Fingers	1,839
Tantalus	1,869
Little Salmon	1,899
Big Salmon	1,935
Hootalinqua	1,969

ST. MICHAELS TO—Continued.

Miles

Lower Labarge	1,999
Upper Labarge	2,030
Takena	2,043
White Horse	2,058
Miles Canyon	2,062
Lake Marsh	2,088
McClintock	2,098
Five-Mile River	2,107
Tagish Post	2,119
Cariboo Crossing	2,139
Foot of Lake	2,143
Bennett	2,169
Skagway	2,209

SEATTLE TO:—

Skagway (inside passage)	1,000
Dutch Harbor	1,750
Port Clarence	2,540
Nome	2,530
St. Michael	2,550

NOME TO (Commencing at N. A. T. & T. Co.'s Store) NORTHWESTERLY:—

Indian Village	5
Penny River	10.4
Cripple River	12.
Sonora Creek	16.4
Sinrock	26.2
Cape Rodney	31.6
Fox & Hendren Roadhouse	24.7
Indian Village	43.4
New Eldorado Roadhouse	47.5
Fairview River	49.6
Indian House (Pt. Douglas)	60.8
Port Clarence Harbor	70
Indian Village (Bering Sea side of Sand Spit)	83
Indian Village (Port Clarence side of Sand Spit)	85
End of Sand Spit	87.5
Cape York	102
Cape Prince of Wales	169

SOUTHEASTERLY:—

Nome River	3.3
Hastings Creek	9.8
Cape Nome	13
Port Safety	21.5
Bonanza	36
Topkuk	50
Chinik (Golovin Bay)	85



RIVER FLYER CUDAHY.

Record-breaker of the Yukon, loaded with miners at Dawson. Fastest record from St. Michael to Dawson in 10 1/2 days;
Dawson to St. Michael in 5 1/2 days; total round trip time, 16 days.

ROUTES TO ALASKA

There are notably two routes to the great Northland Gold Fields— that by way of Skagway, over the railway and down the Yukon River; that of the open sea to way points along the coast, or to St. Michael and thence up the river. Up to a year or so ago the relative advantages of these two routes were open discussions; with the last season, however, this discussion was practically ended by the splendid ocean and lower river service furnished by the large transportation companies, and by more accurate data concerning the short season of overland, railway and upper river travel, and the uncertainties of goods and freight reaching their destination, either at the opening or closing of navigation. Moreover, large risks are always taken on the Lynn Canal route, as evidenced by the great number of accidents to Canal steamers; also on the upper river by reason of the wrecks at Rink and Five Finger Rapids.

There is, therefore, no longer doubt in the minds of the well informed that the open ocean routes to Alaska is the only feasible one. Its advantages in time, safety and certainty of arrival and the ability to go earlier to Nome and way points, and to leave much later, make it an argument that is self evident.

The steamship "Roanoke," belonging to the North American Transportation and Trading Company, besides having a sentimental interest as being the great treasure ship of three years ago, is the fastest, safest, most commodious and certainly the most elegantly equipped steam vessel on the Northern run. The "Roanoke" will leave Seattle about June 1st, in plenty of time to arrive at Nome for the beginning of the season, and late enough, as taught by costly experience, to escape the breaking and ever moving ice fields of Bering Sea. Connections will be made at Nome and St. Michael for Port Clarence, Council City, Weare, Rampart, Ft. Yukon, Circle City, Eagle, Fort Cudahy, Forty-Mile and Dawson. The river boats belonging to this Company make stops at any point on the Yukon, and at connections with the Koyukuk, Tanana and Porcupine, as well as any desirable portage point for overland travel to the Kuskokwim or other inland gold fields.

At Dutch Harbor all vessels of this Company call on their way North, the only stop between Seattle and Nome. The

Record-breaker of the Yukon, loaded with miners at Dawson. Fastest record from St. Michael to Dawson in 16½ days;
Dawson to St. Michael in 5½ days; total round trip time, 16 days.

island of Unalaska is one of the Aleutian chain, forming a kind of rampart between the Pacific and Bering seas, and here in the principal harbor is an islet with a crescent bay, which is called Dutch Harbor, and which is a coaling station and supply point for naval vessels and for the Bering Sea fleet of whalers and commercial vessels. It is also the headquarters of the Company that owns the sealing privileges of the Pribiloff islands, and accordingly it possesses so many facilities that here the North American Transportation and Trading Company owns some very valuable and desirable land. Back of the island that forms Dutch Harbor is another curved beach where may be seen the line of white painted houses that constitute the port of Unalaska.

WINTER ROUTES TO DAWSON AND ST. MICHAEL

With the completion of the White Pass and Yukon route over the mountains from Skagway to White Horse, a distance of one hundred and twelve miles, winter travel to the interior becomes much simplified. Though the railway traverses only about one-fifth of the distance to Dawson, it is by very far the worst part of the trip, and the remaining three hundred and sixty-five miles being down the river on a level trail, good speed, many comforts and rather a pleasant time have taken the place of the former hardships before the roadhouse and well broken trail days.

Leaving White Horse, and the travel up to that point partakes of all the comforts of any civilized country, the traveler has the choice of a regular stage route by double horse sleighs, or he may drive in by dog team, or, as many prefer, he may take a change of socks and shoes on his back and "mush" without other incumbrance. By the first named mode of travel only about six or seven days are required for the trip; by dog sled, ten or twelve days; and the "musher" can do it in from ten to fifteen days, according to his desire and ability to "get there." There are excellent roadhouses at the end of every day's travel, well equipped with all the essentials to comfort and many of the luxuries.

Last winter overland travelers to Nome and down river points were obliged to carry their camping outfits along, as no

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arrangements had been made to care for them along the way, excepting at permanent camps and towns. This past winter, however, promised to see great changes in this respect, and nearly or quite enough roadhouses will have been open to provide lodging and board accommodations every night.

Up to this past winter the down river route by way of Dawson was the only feasible road to Nome and other Bering Sea points. A few hardy men made the trip out last winter by way of Katmai, however, and found the trail so good that many are traveling by that route this winter. This route takes the traveler by way of Juneau to Katmai, Bristol Bay, along the coast to the mouth of the Kuskokwim, thence up that river to



Stampedeers going down the Yukon River on the Ice to Nome.

the watershed between it and the tributaries of the Yukon to a point nearly opposite the Russian Mission; thence either up the river to the Anvik, or the Kaltag; thence almost due north up either of those rivers to drop down into the Norton Sound country at Unalaklik.

There is still another route, and one which seems to have some advantages over the last named, especially in point of distance; it is called the Iliamma. The start is the same at the Katmai route. The trail goes by way of the Mahgeling river to Lake Clark; thence to the source of the Utskushki (the south fork of the Kuskokwim). The end of the trail is also

opposite the Russian Mission on the Yukon. In either case the land journey is between one thousand and twelve hundred miles. There are said to be Indian villages pretty regularly along the route, where travelers may replenish their dog provender, at any rate, and also get some few necessities for themselves. Next summer there will undoubtedly be good supplies of provisions in this country, sent in by the large companies.

THE INTERIOR OF ALASKA

The great obstacle to the development of Alaska in the past has been the want of transportation facilities, it having been the rule with the transportation companies to follow the stampeders after they had made pay strikes, leaving them to get into far away and almost inaccessible parts of the country, with their outfits, practically unaided. Now the case is radically different. This Company has large, swift and comfortable river steamers on the Yukon, and on all of its navigable tributaries. So that the prospector may, without the untold hardships of overland travel in the winter time, reach almost any part of the country, with his outfit intact, and with his physique in excellent condition to begin the actual work of prospecting. All overland travel in Alaska must be made in the winter time, and with dog teams, for the reason that the country is badly cut up by lakes, rivers and swamps, which are practically impassible at any other season of the year.

Ice and mountain overland traveling for very short distances may partake very largely of the novel, and even a "chechako" may enjoy it hugely; but it is a very different matter when it comes to covering hundreds or even thousands of miles of deep snows, over unbroken courses, crossing mountain passes and glaciers full of danger, and abounding in hardships of every conceivable kind. Then to arrive at one's destination only to find that his outfit is worn out by hard usage, his provisions practically gone, and his health undermined by hard travel and exposure. All these are sufficient to dishearten the sturdiest and most intrepid prospector. So that in these later days it has come to be a matter of course that the experienced Alaska miner will wait until navigation opens and then proceed to his destination upon a steamer operated by a company whose past work has demonstrated that their boats are not run by way of

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experiment. This Company's officers have learned long since that experiments are expensive luxuries, and with them the experimental period has passed. Their boats do not start out until the season is sufficiently far advanced to guarantee a safe and expeditious trip. They long since learned that it costs no more to provide proper comforts for their patrons than to have



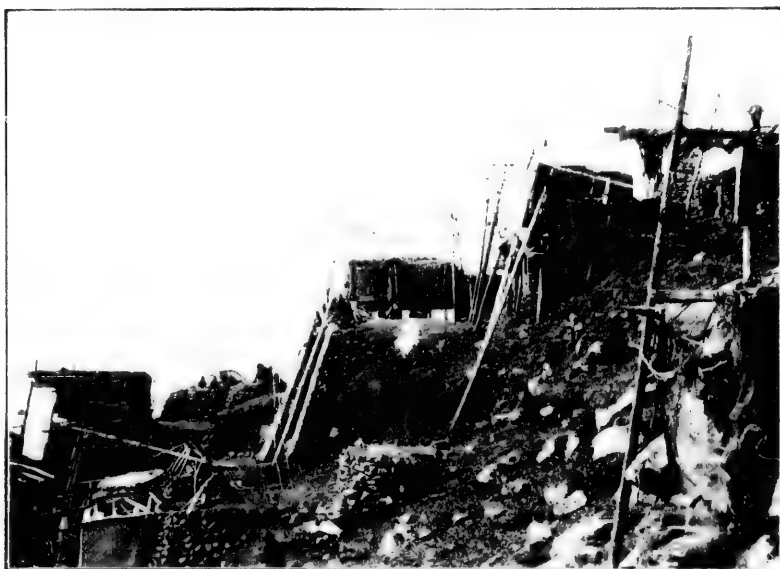
LAPLAND WOMEN AND BABIES—FAMILIES OF ALASKA REINDEER-HERDERS.

them dissatisfied and ill-cared for, and the Company's officers know too well the risks of navigation to trust their passengers, freight and steamers in the hands of any but the most skillful navigators.

In view of all these facts, the result of long and costly experience, those who contemplate a trip either for business or pleasure to the interior of Alaska, will have no difficulty in deciding upon the route to take or the company with which to embark.

TO THE TOURIST

As a summer excursion trip, none more beautiful or enjoyable can be well conceived than a ride on the famous Yukon River from Dawson to St. Michael, and from the latter place to Seattle by ocean, stopping en route at Cape Nome, the newest and most famous gold mining camp in the world, and at Dutch Harbor, the home of the Aleuts. Such a trip, covering approximately 4,500 miles, can be made, with good conditions, in eighteen to twenty-five days, during which time not an hour may be called dull. Every mile down the river brings to view



Native Village, Kings Island, near Port Clarence. The square skin houses are used in the summer and dugouts with circular stone entrance, as shown, in the winter.

new and beautiful scenes. The banks are fringed with flowers and covered with the all prevailing moss or tundra, characteristic of that northern country. Birds, countless in numbers and of infinite variety of plumage, sing out a welcome from every tree top. Here and there Indian villages dot the landscape, and an occasional stop for fuel wood reveals the peculiar characteristics of these hardy natives. On the lower Yukon, as far up as Nulato, these Indians are quite numerous. In disposition they are very kind to newcomers; and while lacking in intelligence, strangely enough, have a moral code and live up to it very well.

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Their language is a puzzle; every two hundred miles down the river you find a new Indian tribe that speaks a different language from the one you just left. The jargon one hears at Tanana could not be understood at Nulato. The different tribes do not come into contact with each other to any extent, though all hunt and fish over the same territory.

The first city on American territory to attract the traveler after leaving Dawson is Eagle, now the Upper Yukon River headquarters of the United States army in Alaska. The presence of soldiers and a large army post makes this camp one of the most interesting on the river. Continuing the journey, the next station of any size is Circle City, which for several years was the metropolis of the Yukon country. Here you find a large



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ALASKA ESQUIMO AND KVACK (ONE-HOLE BOAT).

frontier town, houses all built of logs, which, while they have no pretensions to beauty, are warm and comfortable. Circle City has a population of several hundred people. Numerous other stations are passed on the trip down the river, the most important of which is Rampart City, the metropolis of the Manook country. Several hundred log cabins have been built at this place and with the recent discoveries made, the same should be one of the most important in Alaskan territory. The Holy Cross Mission, a picturesque spot, founded by a band of missionaries some years ago, is also an attractive spot to the

traveler. Still another point of interest is Weare, where another army post has been established.

One of the most impressive features of the river journey is the midnight sun, which is thus described by a writer who spent some time at Circle City: "The midnight sun is here, and it is exceedingly generous of him, for Circle City is now commonly considered to be about thirty miles south of the Arctic Circle. Every party of surveyors has its own latitude for this place, one party even affirming it to be north of the Circle. Sometime this question will be definitely settled, and until it is, suffice it to say that our Day King has not 'set' now



MIDNIGHT SUN.

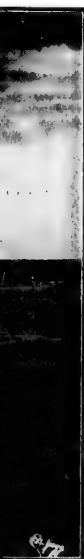
for at least eight days, or, if we are so far south of the Circle, this reflection of the sun,' as some scientists claim it to be, could not be more than the original.

"At Fort Yukon, about thirty miles north of the Circle, the sun does not fail to rise during the shortest winter days, the upper rim just showing itself, as it skirts along the horizon for a distance just about as it looks now here. As at Fort Yukon, it should not show itself at all for a few days, in the same way that it should disappear entirely here for a few minutes, both are probably due to reflections.

"I am not sorry that such is the case, for it is a beautiful sight. It was first noticed on the night of June 17th that it did not set, though had one watched it for a few nights previous

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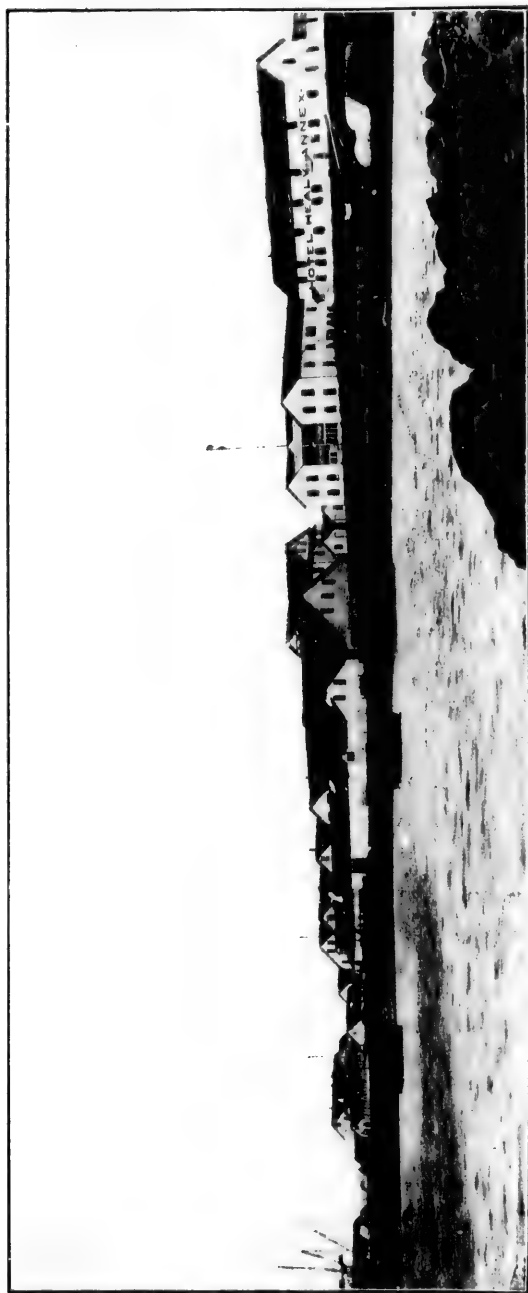
to this date the same effect might have been observed. It was also watched by different parties on the nights of June 19th and 22nd. At 10 p. m. the sun is nearly an hour high in the Northwest; it looks as though it would sink and set right there; but no, he slides along towards the North, slowly drawing nearer the earth, until finally his lower rim appears to touch it.

"During this time the sky has been showing all the shades of red, pink and orange, until now it shows a brilliant red all along the Northern horizon. The sun itself looks like a ball of fire. Down it goes, until only half the ball shows, then disappears altogether behind the tall trees. The watcher hurriedly runs up a ladder to the roof of a house ten or fifteen feet above the ground, and from there watches the upper fourth of the fiery orb as it swings steadily along the Northern horizon for some distance, distinctly visible all the time, until it slowly rises amid more brilliant effects of coloring than when it had first touched the horizon one and one-half hours before.

"All this time the moon, large, pale and frightened looking, was rising in the East, but she could not hold her own against this rising splendor. But she fully retaliates, for it is in the long winter nights when she gets in her work."

From the mouth of the Yukon to St. Michael, a distance of about eighty miles, the traveler is given his first view of Bering Sea and picturesque St. Michael Island. In selecting this point as its transfer station, the North American Transportation and Trading Company had an eye to the future. From the modest log cabin and improvised wharf, in 1892, this Company has expanded until it operates a large fleet of palatial river steamers, large retail stores and warehouses at all the principal points along the Yukon River, a plant at St. Michael, unsurpassed anywhere in Alaskan territory, and large stores and warehouses at Nome.

This Company operates in conjunction with its river fleet a handsome ocean steamer, the "Roanoke," United States mail carrier and acknowledged treasure ship of the run. The traveler, upon arrival at St. Michael, is transferred to the "Roanoke," but not until he has been given an opportunity of enjoying the sight seeing at this famous old Russian fort. Leaving St. Michael in the wake, a ten hours' run brings him to Nome. A stop of several hours at this famous camp is a never failing source of amusement and wonderment to the person unused to scenes of a mining camp. Dog teams whisking over improvised streets and thoroughfares bark defiance at their large and more



ST. MICHAEL, ALASKA
Headquarters and Transfer Station of the N. A. T. & T. Co.

powerful competitors, the horse; men returning from the beach or creek claims, staggering along under the weight of the precious stuff, and numerous other scenes are of hourly occurrence. If not stricken with a desire to remain and be part of this excitable existence, the tourist again boards the steamer, and after two and one-half days across Bering Sea is landed at Dutch Harbor, the picturesque home of the Aleuts. Here a stop of several hours is made for the purpose of recoaling and rewatering the ship, during which time the traveler may enjoy himself roaming about the hills and visiting the picturesque station at Unalaska, where the Russians have erected a very



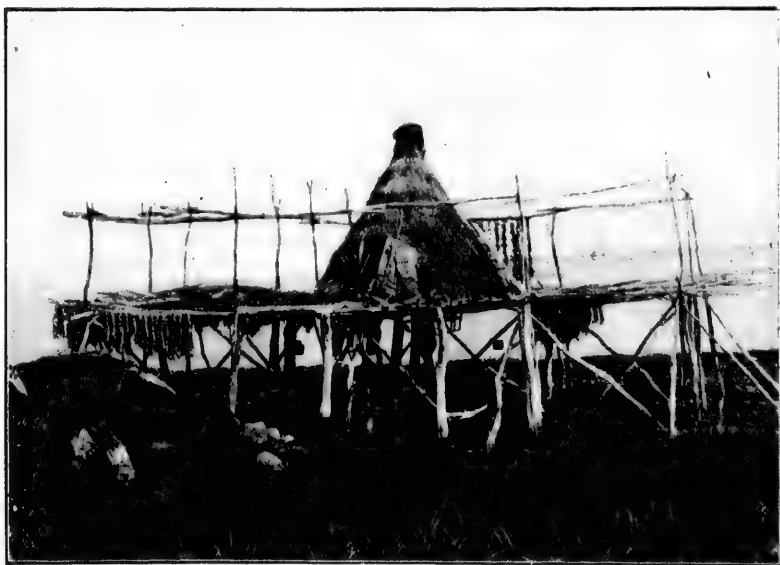
GRECO-RUSSIAN CHURCH, UNALASKA.

handsome orthodox church. Here also may be visited the Jesse Lee Home, an institution established some years ago by good Christian people for the education of the little brown natives, who claim these islands for their home. Once again boarding the steamer, a six days' trip down the North Pacific Ocean brings the traveler to Seattle, the Queen City of the Northwest. Thus ends a trip as varied in its features as could possibly be encountered in any other quarter of the globe.

The steamers of the N. A. T. & T. Co.'s river fleet are the swiftest on the Yukon; they have excellent accommodations and are electric lighted. These steamers are manned by officers who have navigated the Yukon River for several years, thus insuring a pleasant and safe journey.

COMMUNICATION BY WIRE

The outside world is now practically connected with Skagway, Dawson, Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy, Eagle City, Circle City, Ft. Yukon, Rampart, Weare, Nulato, St. Michael and Nome. It will be a surprise to many to know that the Canadian Government telegraph line, starting out at Ashcroft, via Fraser River and Atlin, where one line branches to Bennett and Skagway, and the other to White Horse, Selkirk, Dawson and Forty Mile, is finished with the exception of a stretch of thirty-three miles, on which portion it will be necessary to relay by carrier



Alaska Esquimo Summer Cache. It is elevated to keep fish and game out of reach of dogs.

until the lines are completed. The Canadian Government has extended their line from Dawson to Forty Mile, Ft. Cudahy and the international boundary line, or Eagle City, where it will connect with the United States military line. The United States War Department has been very active in this direction also, and is now building a telegraph line from Port Valdes on the South coast of Alaska, which will branch out about 250 miles north of that point, one going to Eagle City, and the other to Weare (Tanana), at both of which points telegraphic connec

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tion will be made with the line being built from Eagle City down the Yukon River to St. Michael, and thence by cable to Nome. The United States military telegraph line will be extended to Eagle City to the International boundary, where it will be connected with the Canadian Government wires, which will give the American side two lines to the outside world; namely, one via Port Valdes in connection with vessels plying between there and Seattle, and the other via Dawson and Ashcroft, the Canadian Government wire. It is difficult to estimate the importance of telegraph service both from the commercial and military standpoint in these faraway Northern districts. Both lines will be completed shortly and communication may then be exchanged with the outside world within a few hours.

THE STAMPEDER AND THE QUITTER

In no country on earth is a man's mettle and mind so tried as in a new mining camp, and given all the new and arduous conditions to be met with in Alaska and the Yukon, these trials of mettle are increased to a point where only the fittest reach the goal. It is not alone necessary that the miner in Alaska shall have indomitable pluck and nerve, but he must have a great amount of "horse sense" and a good deal of experience in adapting himself to hard surroundings. He must be able to think quickly, act unhesitatingly, and above all he must have infinite faith in himself. These qualifications, supplemented by versatility and resourcefulness, make the ideal prospector or "musher." An iron constitution is almost a pre-requisite also, and one should either know the country over which he is traveling, the habits and haunts of its natives, and its game and fish, or he should wait until he can join the party of some one who does know these things. One must be also incapable of becoming discouraged, but he must add to this habit of optimism that sound sense which will teach him to let go of a hot iron or a barren country.

Men who have failed at home because of laziness or shiftless habits will fail doubly in Alaska, and if such live to get back home again, they have more luck than desert. "Cold feet" is a peculiarly Alaska disease, and want of courage or the failure to "git up and git" are conditions most likely to bring it on.

Self-reliance is one of the chief forerunners of success. The man who thinks any other man in Alaska is going to pilot him to a fortune had better think once more and think differently, and to the newcomer at least it is a case of "every fellow for himself, and the devil take the hindmost." After he has shown the kind of stuff of which he is made, provided it is the right kind, he will have no want of friends, who will join in with him and "go the route" as the boys say—which means they will stand by him until the last bean is gone, and the last "dough god" eaten.

To such a man as we have pictured, and there are thousands of him all over Alaska, success may be delayed, and the fickle god of fortune may dodge about and elude him for a while, but he gets there in time; then if he has hard sense enough to make good use of his well earned "stake," he is soon in a position to really enjoy all he has gone through by retrospection.

There is another thing the Alaska miner, in common with all other men, should remember, and perhaps it would do no harm if we emphasized the point by putting it in the language of a great poet:

"If a man strive for one thing in life, and but one
He may hope to achieve it before life be done;
But he who seeks all things wherever he goes,
Only reaps from the hopes which around him he sows,
A harvest of barren regrets."

LAW AND ORDER

One need not fear that great amount of lawlessness that would seem to be indicated by sensational newspapers. In the Yukon country, Canadian side, the Northwest Mounted Police, under experienced officers, maintain the peace most excellently, and on the American side the United States Government has placed a sufficient force of regular troops and at sufficiently close intervals to guarantee protection to the law-abiding and the suppression of lawlessness among the viciously inclined.



THE OLD-TIME MINER

The old time miner of Alaska, your genuine "Sour-dough," was a species all to himself. No one else on earth was ever just like him, or built on the same lines. Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett and Kit Carson had some of his peculiarities, but not by any means all. He had most of their characteristics, however, and a good many of his own, besides. He was generally unmarried and without ties in the world other than his "partner." He lived at the "Company Store" in the winter time, on grub that he was to pay for next summer; played cards, told yarns and spit tobacco all winter, and spent what spare time he had after these duties were fulfilled in telling any "chechako" how to find gold. Yes, the "chechako" was a godsend in a winter camp of "Sour-doughs." Being a new comer, he hadn't heard all these stories a thousand and one times, as all the others had, so he would listen. It is true the "Sour-dough" knew very little about finding gold, but he found all he needed, and if he took out this year all he found he wouldn't have anything to do next season, so he left it there and was supremely happy in the contemplation of the immense wealth he had in the ground, and as his prospects were always good at "the store" for his winter's grub and his season's outfit, there was the proof that he had the gold.

Along about February or March, after the winter had got well settled, he began to get his season's supplies on to his claim, generally the work of a couple of months of hard work, and always a time of increased pleasurable contemplation and solitary enjoyment, and his summers were employed in eating up what he had along and in rocking out enough gold to "square" him at the store. But who will say that the old time miner was not a philosopher of the rarest kind, and who will deny that his was not an ideal existence—for an old time miner?

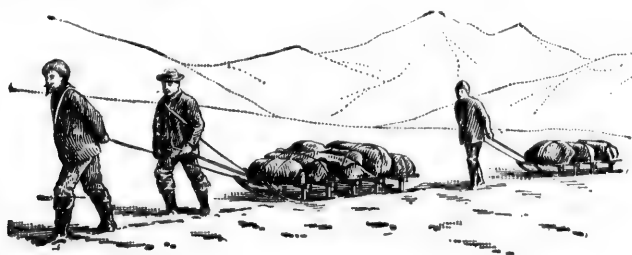
But, alas, the "chechako" came; then it was no longer safe to leave his cache on the trail; his stories before the winter fire were interrupted by wild stories of untold wealth, not in the ground, but in tin cans, old boots, antiquated coffee pots, and even back number breeches legs. Then the old timer grew morose, melancholy and pessimistic. He believed the country was going to the dogs, and that it was no longer a proper place for him to abide in, and today the old timer has almost disap-

peared. A few of him, like Rip Van Winkle, woke up and came on earth again, joined the "stampede" and got rich, but most of them contented themselves with a quiet grunt of contempt for the "chechako" and his ignorance of how to mine gold. But the old timer is a landmark, as showing the past in the light of the present, and those of today should cherish him, and should even so far humor him as to listen occasionally to his story of "how he helped hang an Indian on the Koyukuk in '88," and all the rest of it about the Indian boys killing a white man so they would take him to Portland to see the world.

God bless the "Sour-dough!" And send him one of those big coal oil cans full of gold.

WEARING APPAREL AND OUTFITS

Since the old days, three or four years ago, when it was necessary for the miner to take along everything he was likely to need for a year or two, conditions have entirely changed in Alaska and the Yukon. With improved transportation facilities large numbers of steamers and many river boats, the North American Transportation and Trading Company has been enabled to stock the fourteen trading posts in that country with an abundance of everything that the most exacting taste or requirement may desire. Moreover, the purchase of goods in carload lots and their shipment to destination in our own vessels, in immense cargoes, make it possible for us to sell to the miner at prices lower than it would be possible for him to purchase and ship the same goods for, to say nothing of the annoyance, risk and uncertainties attending individual shipments. All one needs is sufficient money in his pocket to meet his expenses for one year, and every one should be at least that well supplied before undertaking the new experience.



NATURAL RESOURCES OF ALASKA

Alaska has been aptly called the "treasure house of the world." Perhaps the mind that conceived so imposing a title referred more particularly to the immense wealth of gold that had already been brought into evidence. But who will today venture to prophesy that even in another decade the gold wealth, though apparently fabulous at the present time, may not be in-



LAPLANDERS MILKING REINDEER AT PORT CLARENCE.

trinsically small in comparison to its other wonderful resources now but just beginning to be developed.

TIMBER.

Alaska, throughout most of the immense area, is one vast forest, and its woods, though not of so varied a character as those of some of the more tropical countries, are of the finest. The cedars, red, white and yellow, of the Southeastern section of the country and Southernmost islands are of the finest quality. Great forests of these woods verge to the water's edge in many places, and trees eight feet through are not an exception

to the rule. At Sitka, where milling is older than at other points, yellow cedar has been used for years for the interior fittings of the houses, taking a polish equal to that of oak or hickory. Governor Brady's home in that town is fitted throughout with that wood, and no one would suspect that his doors, window frames, wainscoting, sills and floors, had not been imported from the hard wood countries.

Spruce, the various pines, hemlock and cotton wood, are the other principal woods, and they have been found entirely suitable for every purpose of manufacture, building and machine construction.

There are many sawmills in Alaska, some of the principal mills being located at Sitka, Skagway, Ketchikan and Wrangle in the Southeast, and at almost every settlement or town on the Yukon and its tributaries, including Ft. Cudahy, Circle, Eagle, Weare, and one mill of good size being situated on the Koyukuk at the mouth of Slate Creek, the creek upon which are the diggings of the new strike recently reported. This mill's presence at this point is a monument to the intrepidity of the Yukon operator. In the winter of 1898-99, the machinery for this mill, including a sixteen foot boiler, was hauled by dog sled from the head of Koyukuk navigation at Berman, a distance of one hundred and seventy-five miles, up the river on the ice. Teams aggregating more than one hundred dogs were required for the purpose, and specially constructed sleds were employed. Sixty thousand feet of lumber was sawed that spring for the sluice boxes of the miners.

There are parts of Alaska where there is little or no timber, notably at the mouth of the Yukon, and along Bering Sea coast, though even here, there are places where very good timber may be cut. At Council City and in the whole of the Fish River country twelve-inch spruce is plentiful, and in the ages gone by the Yukon has been good to the native Esquimaux by sending drift wood of good size and in great abundance on to the beaches. Even as far North as Port Barrow small willow brush and roots at almost every point may be gathered in quantity sufficient for all domestic purposes of miners and prospectors.

At White Horse, and on Lake Bennett, all the river steamers have been built of native woods cut in the immediate vicinity.

The timber of the country promises to supply all needs of the population of Alaska for an indefinite time.

COAL.

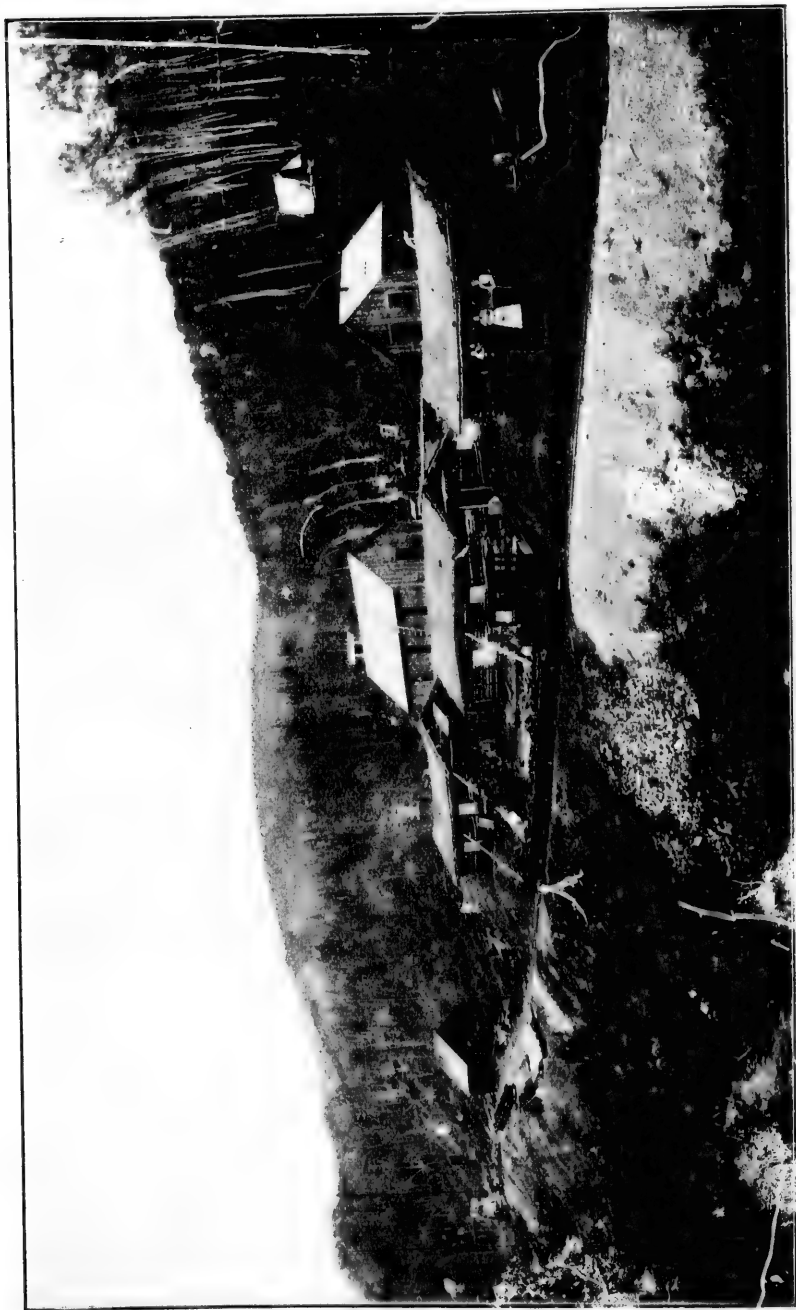
Immense beds of an excellent quality of coal have been found in nearly every section of Alaska. The quality has been found to be about the same everywhere. It is a lignite coal, somewhat new in its geological age, and hence, something wanting in the oils and vegetable fats, but exceedingly rich in the petroleum gases, hence of admirable heating quality. Indeed, in some places the deposits border in quality close upon the anthracite form, in which the gases are so abundant and of such quality as to permit of almost complete consumption under



N. A. T. & T. Co's Coal Bunkers on Yukon River at Mouth of Cliff Creek.

combustion: which means a minimum of waste in the form of smoke

For many years the steam whalers have been able to depend for their fuel on the coal deposits of Point Barrow and on some of the Aleutian Islands, but it is only within the past two or three years that other sections have been commercially worked. The principal mines now open and working in the interior are those at Grayling, on the lower Yukon, Cliff Creek, ten miles below Fort Cudahy, both belonging to the N. A. T. & T. Company, and that belonging to the Alaska Exploration



TOP LEFT COAL FROM N. A. T. & T. COS. CLIFF CREEK COAL MINE.

Company, located on Rock Creek, a branch of the Klondike, twenty miles above Dawson City.

The Copper River country and the headwaters of the Tanana are both rich in coal, and recently deposits have been found near White Horse, and in that vast area of country lying between the Stewart and Hootalingqua rivers.

Within a short time coal sufficient for all commercial and domestic purposes will be developed in all parts of Alaska and the Yukon valley. It is only necessary that there should be a market, and this incentive to development is rapidly coming about with the settlement of the country.

AGRICULTURAL POSSIBILITIES

United States Department Makes Satisfactory Experiments in Alaska.

The special agent of the United States government in charge of the Experimental Station at Sitka, who has made several trips through the Yukon Valley, reports that grain can be matured almost everywhere in Alaska. The past year he secured samples of perfectly ripe barley, oats, wheat and rye from several points in the interior as far north as Eagle City. Great quantities of potatoes and other vegetables have been grown for years at Holy Cross Mission, and by instructions he this year made several reservations of land for experimental stations, among which were one hundred acres at Fort Yukon, which is north of the Arctic circle; and in his report states that there are not less than 100,000 square miles in Alaska which can be utilized for agricultural purposes in some form; that grasses grow luxuriantly wherever they get a chance, and plenty of hay can be made to keep live stock during the winter, and for about five months during the summer season cattle find abundant feed out of doors in the native grasses. The summer season is short in this district, but the sun shines almost continuously through the twenty-four hours of each day, from the latter part of May to the first part of August, which assists in maturing grain much earlier than where there is but twelve hours of daylight, although the seasons may be longer.

What Alaska needs is a class of people accustomed to a

rigorous climate and familiar with the methods of agriculture which must be practiced in such a climate. This would require people used to a Northern climate and who would be best suited to develop the agricultural resources of Alaska.

A further testimonial regarding the climate is found in a statement recently made by Colonel Ray, ex-commander of the United States forces in Alaska, before the Alaska Geographical Society, and who has had a great deal of experience in that district since 1881. He says that "the climate of Alaska is ever more favorable than that of Nevada, Wyoming and some parts of Montana. In all parts of Alaska there are more hospitable



REINDEER HERD IN THE NORTH.

winters. They have no severe storms in the interior, and in the dead of winter horses and cattle can be worked without any danger of their being frozen. The people who go there think they will experience a great change in climate, but this is a mistake, for all last winter I very seldom wore an overcoat."

During the rush to Nome over the ice from Dawson and Upper Yukon points in the winter of 1899-1900, many of the wood choppers on the lower river, who had had the foresight to gather and mature native grass during the preceding summer, made small fortunes selling their hay to horse owners passing down the river, the prevailing prices being 30c per pound.

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At White Horse last winter one band of twenty-five pack horses "wintered out" without feeding and came up in the spring in excellent condition, but with coats of hair that a bear would have been proud of. At Atlin two horses have wintered out every year since the discovery of that camp. It is true all these horses were of the Montana or Eastern Washington breeds and great "rustlers," and, perhaps, horned cattle, or cows and steers would not be so well able to care for themselves.

ALASKA FISHERIES

The salmon canning industry of Alaska is one of its greatest sources of wealth. For many years large companies have had fishing claims on the southeastern coast, and on many of the Aleutian Islands. In 1898 there were 225,000 cases of Alaska salmon put on the market. Last year the catch was greater, and from year to year the amount of canning depends rather on the state of the market than upon the possibilities of the fisheries. Many millions of dollars are invested in this trade, and the annual income from it foots up to a fabulous figure.

About the Aleutian Islands, and especially in the neighborhood of Sitka, great numbers of halibut are caught, mostly by the natives, who sell them for a small sum to the fishing boats that ply those waters. The various kinds of cod are also caught in large quantities in all parts of the coast country.

In the interior, where there are many streams and lakes of ice cold water of the finest kind, there are miriads of fish, and there is no season of the year when fish cannot be taken. They are mostly grayling, white fish and salmon trout; and in the Yukon and its larger tributaries salmon abound in season. King salmon, the choicest variety, has been caught as high up as Dawson. In the inland lakes there is in addition a kind of "sucker;" the natives catch them in large quantities for dog feed. At one season during the construction of the White Pass road, Contractor Heney's forces of 1,000 men were cut off from their base of fresh meat supplies at Bennett for a month, caused by the forming of ice in Lake Bennett. During all that time the men were bountifully fed on white fish caught in a lake nearby, by two men detailed for the purpose. Several hundreds of pounds were taken daily.

A LAKE OF OIL

Although no efforts have been made to locate oil anywhere in Alaska, there are many localities where petroleum oil has been found, literally pouring out upon the surface of the earth. Back of Yakutat, in the Copper River country, some prospectors in the summer of 1898 discovered what they announce as a lake of oil. Closer investigation discovered that a crude petroleum has poured out from some unknown crevasse until a thick scum had covered one of many mountain lakes, and had so hardened that in many places it would bear a man's weight. Capital, always on the outlook for such disclosures, soon sent representatives to the scene, and since that time many thousands of dollars have been expended in development work. The fact that elaborate preparations are being made to handle this oil product is convincing proof that the oil experts are satisfied with their earlier judgment.

In many places in Alaska, and more especially near the Bering Sea coast, and between Copper River and Bristol Bay, oil indications abound, although up to the present time no attempts have been made to verify the indications and no boring has been done at any point. Now that capital is looking toward Alaska as a legitimate field of employment rather than speculation, hit or miss way of the old days, there is no question that before long well systematized efforts will be inaugurated to discover and develop the oil wealth of the country.

When once discovered it will revolutionize the question of fuel which, owing to the rapid destruction of trees throughout Alaska, is already becoming a troublesome one in many sections of that territory. Hundreds of prospectors are out looking for coal in Alaska, knowing it to be a richer find than a gold mine, but the discovery of oil in paying quantities would prove even a greater boon to that country, answering, as it would, the double purpose of light and fuel. California, where wood is so scarce, has forever settled her fuel question by the discovery of oil in that state, and is now using oil jet burners in all fire-boxes on railroads, steamboats and stationary engines where formerly wood and coal were used. Alaska already has the same problem to face at Nome, and other points along that coast, where wood is scarce. The same question will face it along the rivers of the interior before many years, so that the early discovery of oil is sure to prove one of the most valuable as well as important factors in the permanent development of Alaska.

PLACER GOLD

Whatever may be the eventual development of Alaska in its varied sources of wealth, the great mass of people will never be impressed again as they were in the summer of 1897, when the "Portland," the treasure ship of the North American Transportation and Trading Company, steamed into Seattle harbor. Then, and then only, could one appreciate the magic of the word "gold." In the feverish days of '49 the snakelike trails over the arid American plains were blazed with the bones of men and cattle. A half century passed and the philosopher might have thought that such a wild unloosening time could never come again in this age of cold calculation; but, at the end of the century such a fever took hold of the people that every one who could leave his home, and many who could not, dropped everything and joined the wild scramble; clerks, professional men, laborers, teachers, men and women from every walk in life, even mothers of families with little children in their arms, were inoculated with the fever, and again every trail was marked out in the mountain sides with the bones of men and pack animals; the waterways with wrecks of every conceivable variety of water craft, and monuments of dead hopes adorned the ways to the golden goal, where with glazed and staring eye, the weary seeker could see in imagination with the poet:

"Far beyond the classic poet's dream,
Pactolous runs in every winding stream.
The mountain cliffs, the glittering ore unfold,
And every reed that rustles, whispers 'Gold.'"

Since that wild time the placer gold of Alaska and the Yukon Valley have been sought with growing calmness, until now placer mining has assumed a scientific aspect, and is prosecuted as carefully and with as much calculation as any other business pursuit. In consequence, many thousands of claims have been opened that, even under existing conditions as to expenditure, have brought fortunes to their owners, and no sun sets these days that has not seen some new "strike" or some new discovery of "pay dirt." It would be idle to repeat history, to rehearse all the districts, creeks, rivers, or even sections that have had their legitimate strikes and their succeeding "gold camps."



SPLITTING ON NO. 3 ABOVE, ANVIL CREEK.

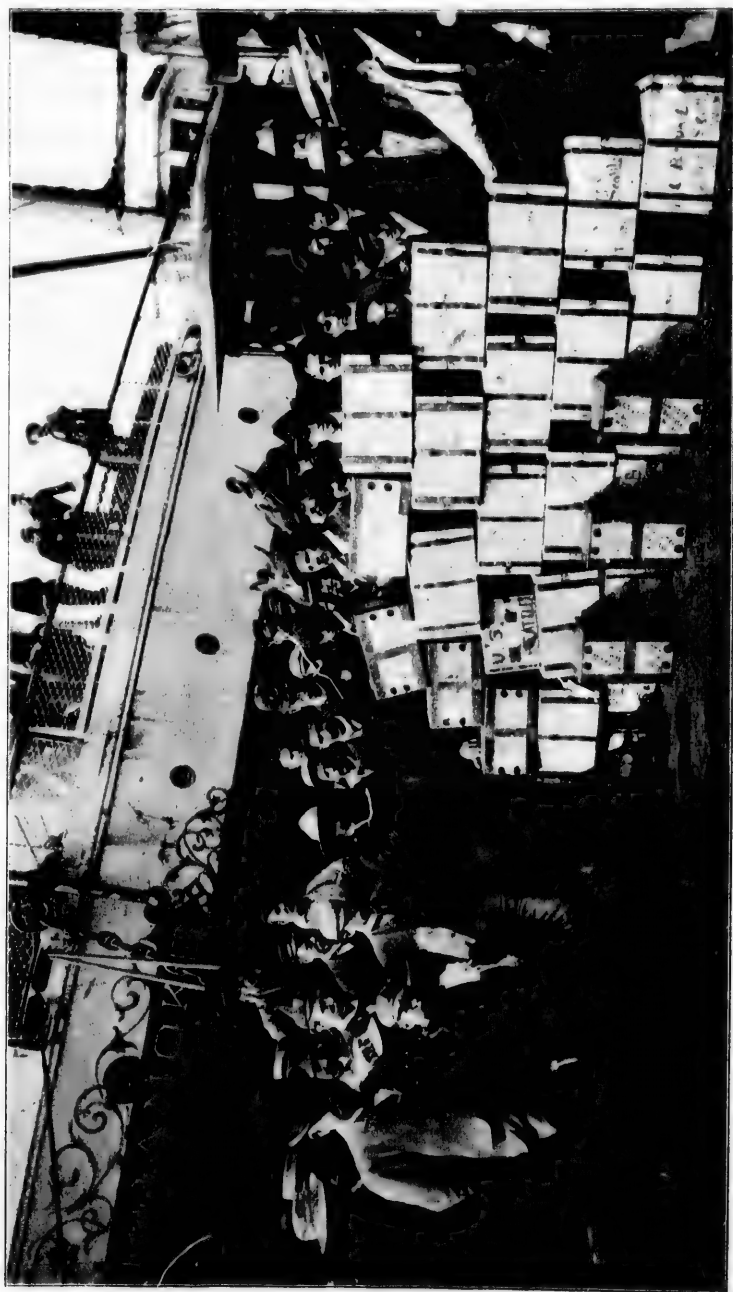
But the care of dust after it is taken from its hiding place in the earth is an interesting incident of a gold country, and a government assay office located at the gateway of a mining country is not an every day familiarity. Hence the brief note on the methods and manner of receiving gold from Alaska will interest the reader, especially one who is looking toward Alaska longingly.

HOW AND WHERE HANDLED.

From the most authentic figures and a careful summary the total yield of gold and silver for 1900, representing the output of Alaska, including Nome and the Klondike, was \$29,323,553.00, of which Alaska produces \$7,965,224.00 and the Klondike \$21,358,329.00. The figures for 1899 showed a total of \$21,257,247.00, of which amount Alaska produced \$5,000,501.00, and the Klondike \$16,224,746.00, showing an increase of about forty per cent. for the year 1900, as compared with 1899. The output for 1901 should be greater on account of the many new mines in the Bluestone, Kugarok and other districts that will be developed during the year.

Alaska and Yukon Territory gold has been handled by the ton, like so much merchandise, at the Seattle United States assay office. This office issuing an official numbered receipt for all gold received, which, however, is not negotiable at the banks, but after the gold is melted and its value ascertained the amount is credited to the depositor against the numbered receipt issued, and the amount is payable to the depositor on demand. The greatest care is taken to get every atom of value in the melting pots, even the slag being ground and washed in a pan and the gold recovered from it credited to the depositor.

Among the largest depositors have been the North American Transportation and Trading Company, the Scandinavian-American Bank, the Bank of British North America, represented in Seattle by Dexter Horton and Company, and the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The gold dust as received and ordinarily known as commercial dust having mixed with it black sand and other dirt sediment, is negotiable at the banks as \$15 per ounce. Two of the largest nuggets received at the Assay Office from the Nome District were valued at \$315 and \$435 respectively, both being taken from No. 1 on Anvil Creek. A nugget weighing in value \$1,172 was found in Eldorado Creek in the Klondike.



FOUR MILLION (\$4,000,000) DOLLARS IN GOLD DUST.

The beach gold dust is easily recognized on account of its fine flour-like appearance and light color. Gold from the different districts and from different creeks in the same district have a difference in appearance which are noticeable to the expert eye of the assayer, and even after the gold is melted and its value determined the assayers can generally tell from what district and often from what creek it came.

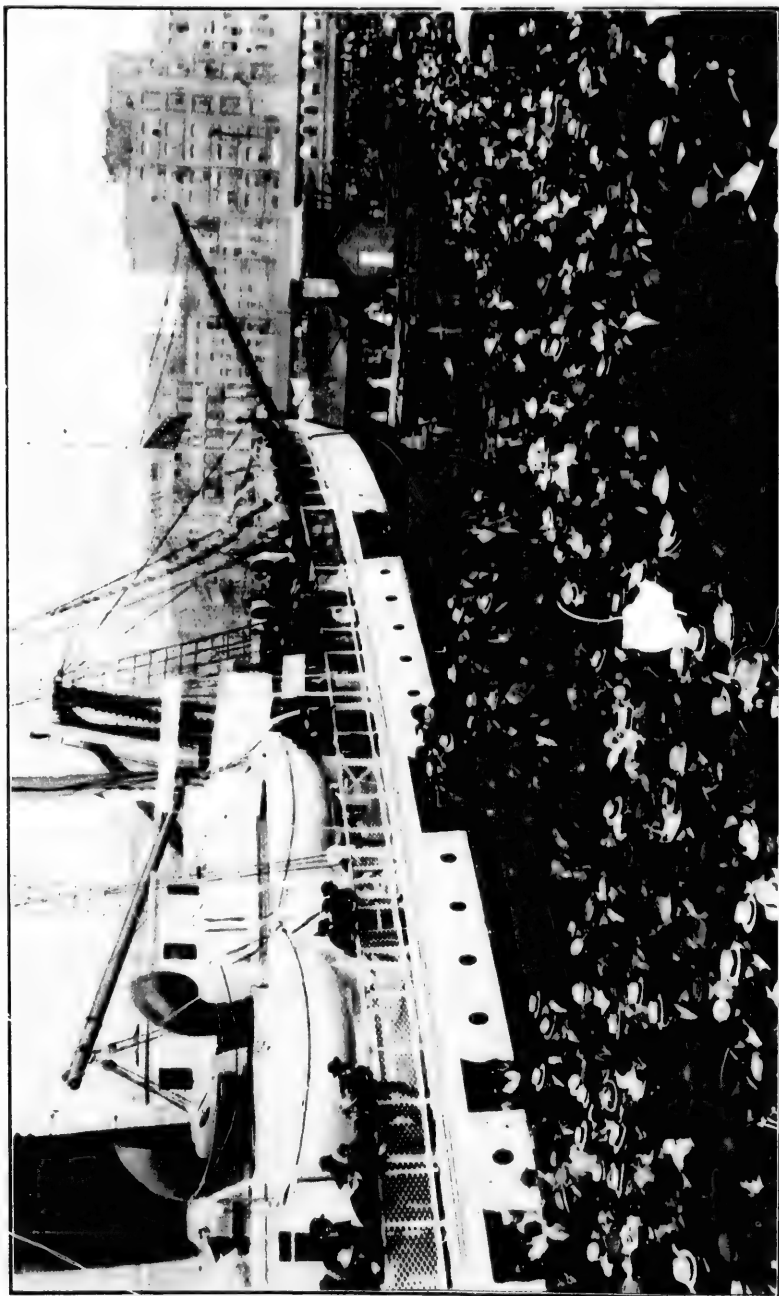
The richest gold received at the Assay Office is from Manook Creek at Rampart, Alaska, and this gold generally runs as high in value as \$19.50 per ounce, and has greater fineness than coin turned out from the government mints. Gold from the Klondike and adjoining districts varies in value, some as low as \$14.50 and some as high as \$17.50 to the ounce. Nome gold runs in value from \$18.10 to \$19.20 to the ounce.

About eighty per cent. of the total gold yield of Alaska and Yukon Territory passes through the Seattle Assay Office, an evidence that Seattle is the gateway to and from Alaska and the Klondike.

DETERMINING GOLD DUST VALUES AT THE SEATTLE UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE.

The general features of receiving and determining the value of gold dust at an assay office are interesting. The weight in ounces and hundredth parts of an ounce is ascertained by weighing the dust on scales so sensitive that the variation of one-thousandth of an ounce is noticeable. The weight ascertained is double checked to avoid the possibility of an error. The depositor's signature and address are taken, and then a negotiable receipt, specifying the weight of the treasure in ounces and hundredths of an ounce is issued. The depositor is then instructed to call either the next day or the day thereafter, when settlement will be made. If the depositor needs money immediately, any of the Seattle banks will, upon endorsement of the assay office receipt over to them, and after verifying its genuineness, advance cash thereon. If, however, the depositor wishes to leave the city the same day, payment is arranged for at once.

When taken off the balances the deposit is immediately placed in a self-locking steel receptacle, and soon thereafter delivered over to the smelter, who reweighs it and places it in a graphite crucible, which is set within a gas furnace, where it is subjected to about 2,200 degrees of heat for a period of time corresponding somewhat with the volume of the contents. This



ARRIVAL OF ROANOKE, JULY 19, 1898, WITH \$3,750,000.00 IN GOLD.

melting process separates the impurities from the gold dust, leaving practically only gold and silver, if the combination should then have silver present. After the proper time has elapsed the melt is poured into a steel mould that runs it in the form of a bar. After cooling the bar is given a bath in a very weak solution of sulphuric acid to remove any foreign substance adhering to its surface. It is then re-weighed and the weight double-checked, after which it is delivered to the assay department, where two small chips are taken from it, selecting diametrically opposite corners, for the purpose of assaying.

The bar is then returned to the assayer in charge, when it is again weighed and the weight double-checked. One chip from the bar is taken in charge by one assayer, and the other chip by another, so that two separate and distinct assays are made of each bar, thus precluding the possibility of error when the results are finally compared.

The assays are made of what is known as the "nitric acid process," and if the bar is homogeneous the result in fineness of gold and silver is reported to the assayer in charge. The weight of the bar after melting and its fineness in gold and silver, as determined, are used by the clerical department of the office to enable them to calculate its value, the latter being a calculation in triplicate to also preclude the possibility of error. After the value of the bar is determined and the regular assay charges deducted, a check is drawn in favor of the depositor and paid over on surrender of the receipt, properly endorsed, issued at the time of depositing the gold dust. If desired, the depositor may accept the gold bar in settlement, and pay the regular assay charges for the work entailed in determining its value. After a considerable number of gold bars of sufficient weight have accumulated, they are shipped to the United States mint in specially prepared bullion boxes. Departmental guards are within the institution every minute, night and day, and during the very busy season a special detail of police, in addition, is always on guard, thereby affording extra protection against chance robbery or surreptitious disappearance of gold dust or bullion.

Four days after the opening of the Seattle Assay Office the whole world knew that the report of the riches of the Klondike had again been confirmed. On the morning of July 19, 1898, the steamship "Roanoke" steamed into Seattle harbor, direct from the mouth of the Yukon River, with several hundred Klondikers and a million or more of treasure. Seattle people

can well recall the excitement created throughout the world at that time. Long lines of depositors could be seen making their way to the government's gold purchasing institution, and a big truck, handled by four horses, loaded with boxes of gold dust soon put in its appearance at the Assay Office. Excitement ran high, and the Assay Office soon became the cynosure of all eyes. It was indeed a busy day in the institution's history, taxing its capacity to the utmost. It was nearly a week, however, before all the gold dust arriving on this steamer found its way to the Assay Office. After this gold kept arriving by every steamer, and by November 1st the receipt of the institution had reached more than (what was then considered an enormous figure) five million dollars. (See Report of the Director of the Mint, 1898, page 117.)

QUARTZ GOLD

In any newly developed country it is natural that that industry and wealth should be first sought that is most easily and cheaply available; hence the placer gold mining of Alaska has monopolized the attention of miners, excepting in one or two instances, where in Southeastern Alaska, some very low-grade properties of large area have been working profitably for several years. Now, however, that several quartz ledges have been found in different parts of Alaska, capitalists interested in quartz mining are being attracted, and as their vanguard expert quartz miners have got upon the ground.

It will be remembered that Cripple Creek was for years a placer camp, and that now all its energies and wealth are interested in quartz. A repetition of this promises to take place in Alaska. At Dawson, where for years every man, woman and child thought only of placer gold, they have quite recently discovered some rich quartz ledges, and are preparing to develop them; the same thing is occurring all over the country. Up to the present time, perhaps, the most promising discoveries have been copper, located in the Copper River country, and at the headwaters of the Tanana. Copper of more or less quantity and quality has also been found at White Horse, in the Yukon Territory. The next year promises much development of all these properties, as large capital has become inter-

ested in the Copper River country, and in the Tanana; also up White River, a branch of the Yukon, some fifty miles above Dawson. Near Atlin several ledges have also been discovered, mostly gold-bearing and resembling a telluride in formation.

It will surprise most people to learn that for ten years some partners have been at work on a gold and silver bearing ledge some distance up the Fish River, near Council City, in the Nome country. For years it was costly work, and the partners lost at least one schooner trying to bring out a cargo of ore. Now, however, renewed interest will be taken in this property and development will proceed rapidly under changed conditions, cheaper food, transportation, etc. Several excellent prospects have been located during the past year, adjacent to Nome. One set of claims is located on Anvil Creek, running across from about No. 10 above to Glacier Creek, by way of Snow Gulch. Another set of claims has its beginning on Boulder Creek back of Nome, and still another is located close to Sledge Island on the coast.

From the fact that much of the placer gold at Nome is mixed with quartz and has extended rough and jagged edges, it is assumed that this particular gold, at least, came from quartz ledges, and early attempts will be made to locate the "mother lode."

There is scarcely a section of Alaska where fine "prospects" in quartz have not been uncovered, and it hardly needs the power of a seer to prophesy that before long Alaska's quartz mines will add wonderfully to its wealth.

Fine samples of quartz have been taken from two ledges on the Casa de Poga River, and the ore is pronounced equally as fine as that of Colorado, and resembles that found in the Colville Reservation in Washington. There seems to be a capping of iron, which, when mortered, produces gold. Other samples of ore contain copper and silver. The ledges run southeast and northwest, and have well defined hanging and foot walls. There are thousands of tons of ore in sight, and the working of these immense veins can be done at a comparatively small cost. The ledges are about forty feet wide. In the gulches leading up to the hills in which the ledges are located coarse gold has been panned near the surface.

Quartz ledges have also been discovered in the Port Clarence district. Most of these ledges are highly mineralized with grey copper, which carries high values of gold. The ledges



NOME-SHIP LYING AT ANCHOR OFF THE BEACH.

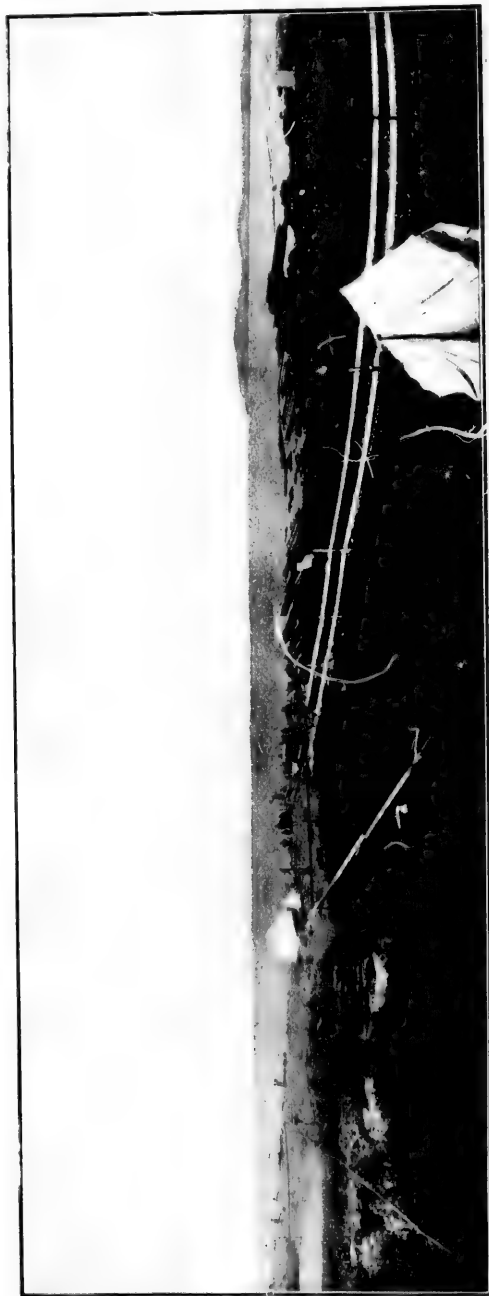
are well defined; and some quartz also contains free gold visible to the naked eye. There is also a large quantity of float quartz in this district, some of it worn but very little, showing plainly that it has not traveled far, and there is no doubt but what some rich discoveries will be made in the Port Clarence district next year.

NOME MINING DISTRICTS

The Sumner Peninsula, or that great area of country which we have lately come to know under the general name of Nome, produced during the past mining season nearly, if not quite, five millions of placer gold; this, too, in spite of the fact that not more than a dozen claims were worked systematically. Up to the close of the past season the mining claims in that section were owned by two or three hundred miners, only a few of whom had the means to work their property; then, too, litigation, or the fear of litigation, prevented the opening up of much property that was known to be very rich. So great an output of gold, therefore, from this country under the disadvantageous conditions at once places the Nome placer section far in the front of all other sections in Alaska, and before long a wider interest will be taken in this new but marvelously rich country than was the case with the Klondike, or, indeed, with any other gold camp ever discovered.

By the term the Nome mining country is meant that peninsula bounded by Kotzebue Sound on the northwest, the Arctic Ocean on the north and by Golovin Bay, or even by the mouth of the Yukon, on the south. It comprises hundreds of square miles of area, and as already evidenced by the product of a very few of the mining claims, some of the richest placer ground in the world.

All of the country is easily reached, the two magnificent harbors of Grantley at the northern extremity and of Golovin on the south giving shelter to the largest sea-going vessels, and all intermediate points will come into greater accessibility as the plans of the transportation companies become complete for the lightering of merchandise at Nome proper and other desirable but exposed points along the coast.



PORT CLARENCE HARBOR, LOOKING OUT FROM TELLER CITY.

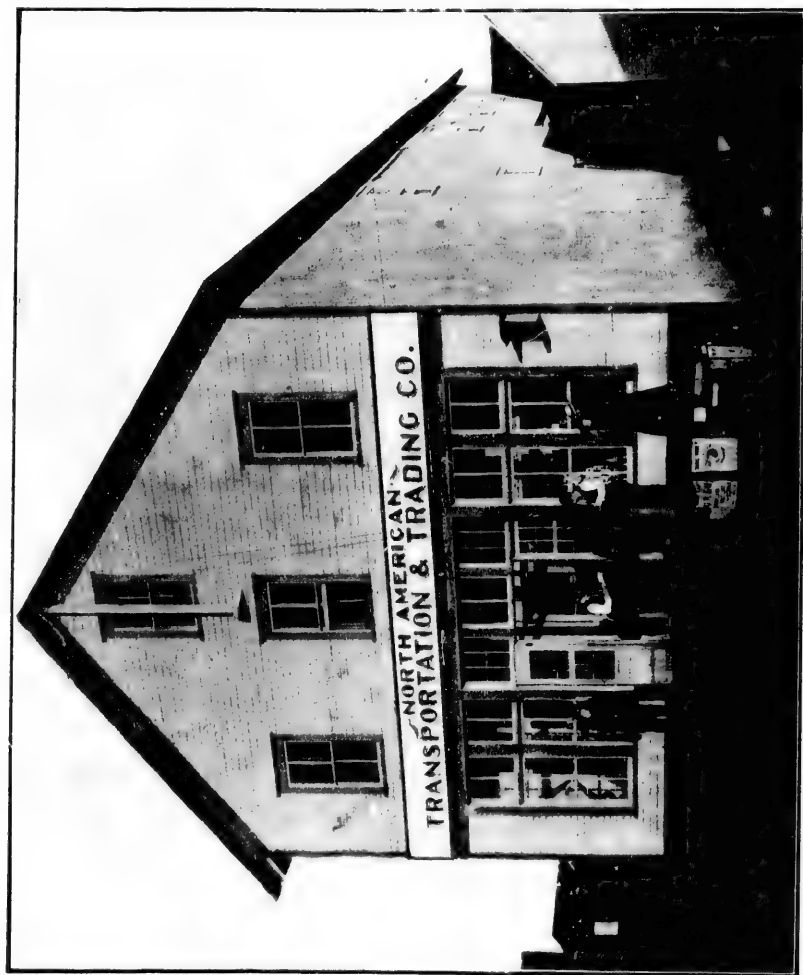
On August 8, 1900, Judge Noyes, of the Second District of Alaska, completed the work of dividing his judicial district into mining districts as provided by the new Alaskan Code, which did away with the districts created and maintained heretofore by the miners. It will be well, therefore, in looking over maps of this district to see that they are brought down to the above date, in order that the new lines may be shown. The dividing lines of the various districts are as follows:

Cape Nome District—Commencing at a point on the shore of Bering Sea, running northerly and following the westerly line of the watershed of Cripple River, including all the waters flowing into Cripple River; thence northerly on the watershed between the waters flowing into Bering Sea, including Snake, Nome, Flambeau, Eldorado, Bonanza, Solomon and Topkuk rivers to the shores of Bering Sea; thence following the shore of the sea to the point of beginning.

Port Clarence District embraces that territory northwest of the watershed of Cripple River to the coast line of Snake River, along the Snake to its headwaters; thence north to a point between Kuzamapa and Port Clarence rivers at the head of Cowvinik Lake, northerly on the watershed between the Agiopuk and Kugroupoga rivers, northerly again to the southerly watershed of the Arctic Ocean at Christ Mareff Inlet; thence southerly along the Arctic Ocean to Bering Straits and east to the point of beginning.

Council City District—Starting on the shore of Bering Sea at a point on the easterly line of the watershed of the Topkuk River; thence northerly on the watershed to the watershed dividing Topkuk and Klokerblok rivers; thence northerly to White mountain; thence northerly to the watershed between the Quinnekek, Oweruk and Tubtulik rivers and the right fork of Fish River to a point on the watershed between the waters emptying into Lake Emuruk and Tubtulik River; thence westerly on the watershed between the right fork of the Fish River and the waters emptying into Lake Emuruk to Mount Cleaves; thence westerly on the watershed between the Port Clarence and Yuzamapa rivers; thence southerly on the watershed of the Casa de Pogra, Klokerblok, Bonanza, Solomon and Topkuk rivers to the point of beginning.

Kougarok District—Commencing at a point at the headwaters of the Snake River, northerly to a point between the Kozamapa



N. A. T. & T. CO.'S HEADQUARTERS AT NOME.

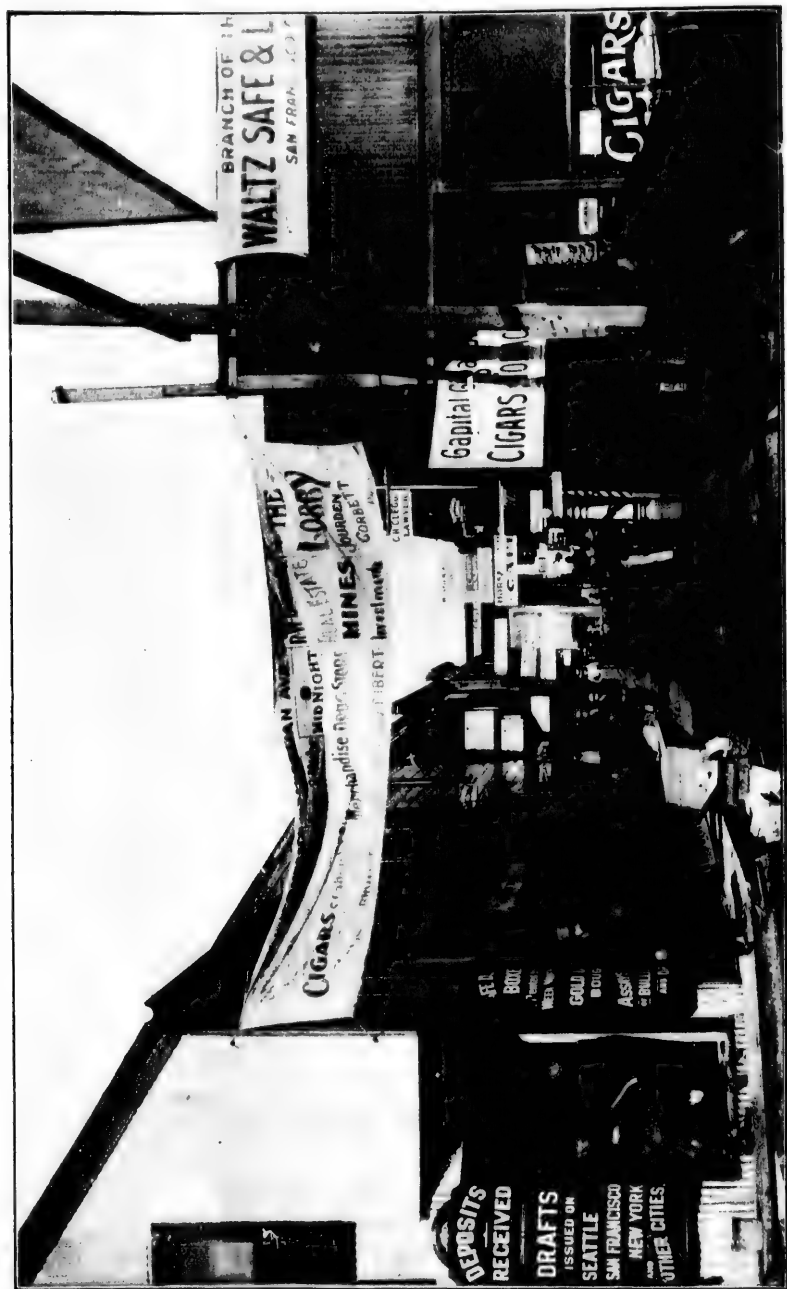
and Cowvinik Lake, northerly on the watershed between the Hgropuk and Kugroupoga rivers, northerly to the watershed of the Arctic River and following same to the Arctic Ocean at Christ Mareff Inlet; thence along the shore of the Bay of Good Hope; thence south on the watershed of the Good Hope and Kougarok rivers to a point on the watershed between the Tubtulik and the rivers emptying into Lake Emuruk; thence westerly to Mount Cleaves; thence westerly and southerly on the watershed between Port Clarence and Fish River headwaters to the point of beginning.

The territory south of the Council City district is divided into three districts—Chinik, embracing Norton Bay; St. Michael, taking in the Kuskokwim, and Dutch Harbor, which takes in the southerly edge of Alaska.

Of all the mining districts that of Nome proper, and lying immediately about the City of Nome itself, has actually produced the greatest amount of gold; yet one would be bold indeed, or would but slightly value his reputation as a prophet, who would venture the assertion that any one of these splendid sections would eventually prove richer or more valuable than another.

The first discovery of gold in this part of Alaska was made on Anvil Creek, about five miles back from Nome, in September, 1898, by some Swedes who were landed at the mouth of Snake River, of which Anvil is a tributary. The discovery claim on Anvil has since that time produced over one million dollars in coarse gold and nuggets. Pay prospects have been found on many creeks and gulches since, the richest, perhaps, being on Snow Gulch, Glacier Creek, Dexter and Boulder, all immediately about Anvil. Nuggets have been taken out weighing a value of \$435, but, unlike the Klondike country, none of the ground at Nome is rich in large nuggets, the wealth being in the small deposits of coarse gold.

Unlike the Klondike country, also, prospecting at Nome and in the whole Nome country is rendered cheap and easy by the fact that bedrock ranges from four to ten feet in depth below the surface, as against forty or fifty feet up the Yukon. However, there will be many claims at Nome, especially on benches where winter diggings will be possible—that is, when the pay streak is deep enough to allow the sinking of shafts and the running of drifts. Indeed, there are several bench claims being worked in this way this winter.



A STREET SCENE AT NOME.

NOME CITY

Nome City is not only the mining camp for the Nome district, but at the present time the headquarters for all the Nome country from Port Clarence on the north to Golovin Bay on the south. It is indeed a marvelous city, scarce a year old in city form, but already possessed of much of the dignity and many of the advantages of cities far older. It has a most complete water system, the pipes bringing the coldest, clearest and most delicious water from Moonlight springs in the foothills five miles back of town. It has a telephone system, with outlying points on the principal creeks, and the company is this winter employed in making connections with Council City and Port Clarence.

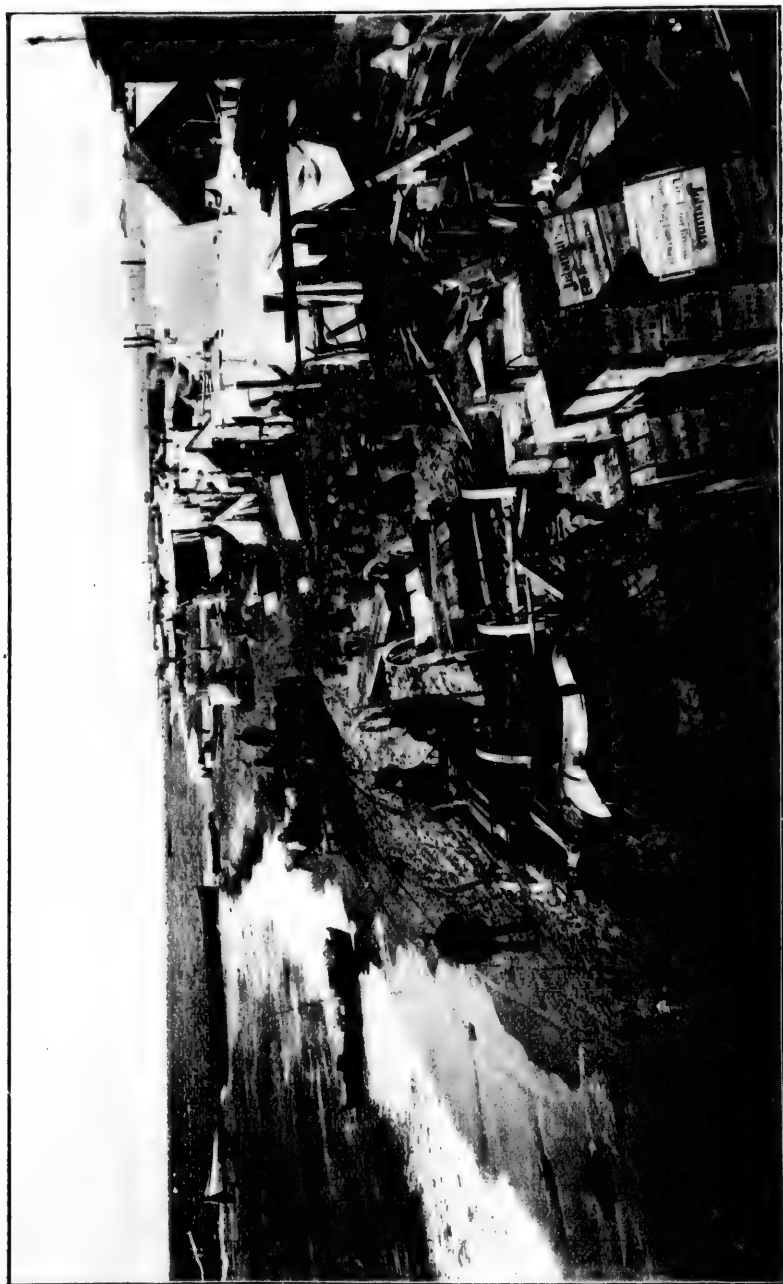
Population—There were at Nome last summer not less than 30,000 people, American and foreign, but there are buildings to house a population of perhaps 6,000, and there were about that many people living there this winter.

The peace and policing of the town have been and are in the hands of the United States government troops, under Gen. Randall. During the year ending with the close of navigation last year there were four suicides and five other violent deaths, as appears from government statistics. These figures will not appear to a disadvantage in comparison with other cities older and with claims of a greater respectability.

The Health of Nome is, like that of all other parts of Alaska, almost phenomenal. The published government reports show that there were during the past year sixty-two deaths from all causes, as follows: Pneumonia, 29; unknown, 7; drowning, 7; violent deaths, 5; suicide, 4; accident, 3; typhoid fever, 3; smallpox, 1; paralysis, 1; dysentery, 1; burns, 1.

In the middle part of June last year smallpox broke out in the Nome camp. Captain Jarvis, of the United States Treasury Department, at once took the initiative, built and equipped an isolation field hospital and by adopting heroic measures stamped out the plague within two months. One man died, but in his case the disease was complicated with other afflictions, and he died within five hours after coming into the hands of Captain Jarvis' men.

Although no attempts were made to police the town in a



SOME TYPICAL SCENE ON THE BEACH.

strictly sanitary way, drains were established, cesspools regulated, the refuse and offal from restaurants and hotels disposed of by throwing into the bay and the town was kept as free from moisture as the lay of the ground permitted. The result was that there was a minimum of miasmatic and germ diseases. The unhappy mortality from pneumonia was due in large measure to exposure of its victims and their failure to properly realize the necessities of that rigorous climate.

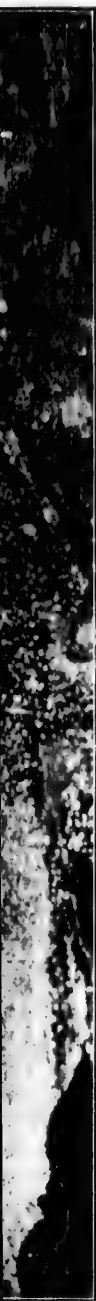
Commerce of Nome.—There is hardly a business incident to the everyday life of an average American city that was not represented at Nome. Although there were, and still are, many foreigners at Nome, it is a typical American city in all its phases, and although foreigners operated on an exact equality with Americans in all things, most of the business of Nome was in the hands of Americans, foreigners seemingly preferring to engage in mining or in pursuits where they did not come in contact with that fierce competitive drive always to the liking of the American business man or tradesman.

Nome Lighterage Facilities.—Although there has been some talk of private companies interesting themselves in putting in a breakwater at Snake River and dredging the channel to enable tugs and barges to enter the Snake River Lagoon, and that the government, through the Military Department, would build a breakwater at the mouth of the Nome River of sufficient length to ensure a channel at its mouth, the latter being four miles distant from Nome City, there is no certainty that this work will be completed or that there will be any advantage in discharging cargoes through the construction of the same, as there are long shallow bars extending out into the sea from the mouth of each of these rivers, and when it would be too rough to handle a barge against the shore in the ordinary way, as heretofore done, it would be too rough to load and tow the barge through the surf over these bars, since any channel constructed beyond the breakwater would only last from one storm to another on account of the moving and shifting of the sand in the direction of the waves.

The best lighterage and wharfage facilities at Nome are those of the N. A. T. & T. Co., and during the two great storms of the season of 1900 this company was the only one which had lighters with which to perform the service and expedite the discharging of cargo and passengers from vessels. Most of the lighters belonging to other companies and individuals went ashore in the



A STORM ON BERING SEA.



A STORM ON BERING SEA.

storms, and were either disabled or totally wrecked. The N. A. T. & T. Co.'s barges were somewhat different in model from all others and considered stronger and better adapted for service in the Nome surf. This is the only company operating a commercial freight wharf delivering goods direct from the lighter to the main street side of its wharf, thus enabling consignees to take their freight directly into wagons or otherwise for delivery at their respective destinations. It is on account of furnishing these facilities that this company is offered so much freight by those familiar with the conditions at Nome. Our system of handling freight and baggage in this manner has reduced the loss and damage of same to a minimum, insuring delivery of the goods in the same order they are received at Seattle. The delivery of goods 200 feet above high water mark should not be lost sight of, as well as the facilities of good streets and easy grades for hauling heavy loads from the company's commercial freight wharf, as it means a great reduction in freighting charges to the consignee, as compared with the landing of freight on the beach, below high water and within reach of the storm seas.

CLIMATE OF NOME AND VICINITY.

Many contradictory reports have been made concerning the climate of Nome, some comparing it to the balmy Mediterranean and others to frigidity of the poles. The climate of the Seward Peninsula is milder and much more even than that of the same latitude in the interior of Alaska and the Yukon country. The precipitation is greater in summer, and the winter is not so severe, the sea opposite the coast being tempered by a branch of the Japan current. According to the weather bureau, the mean annual temperature at St. Michael, 116 miles from Nome, on Norton Sound, is 26.1 F., and the annual precipitation (rain and snow) 14.44 inches. The extremes of temperature noted on the island are 75 F. in July and 55 F. in February, the records showing freezing temperatures during every month, except July. The most reliable data indicate a temperature at Nome somewhat lower than at St. Michael. The summers, which are usually short and cold, are similar to the spring in the Northern United States. During the summer months many bright, clear days occur, but the mountains are usually overhung or obscured with vapory clouds. Rain is of frequent occurrence, often continuing steadily for several days, but is not usually accompanied by wind. The prevailing winds in sum-

mer are from the south. In summer the days are long; from May to early in July it is daylight nearly all the time, with night scarcely perceptible. In August the length of the days begin rapidly to decrease. The temperature during the winter will average probably ten degrees or more milder than at Forty-Mile or the Klondike region in the same latitude, and is not much colder than in parts of the United States. The greatest cold seems to occur about the middle of January, at which time the thermometer rarely descends to more than thirty below.

BREAKING OF THE ICE.

The following table shows the ice movements at St. Michael, as well as first arrival of vessels from the States, for a period of twenty-three years, just ending, viz.:

YEAR	<i>Ice Moving Out</i>	<i>First Arrival From Sea</i>	<i>Ice Forming</i>
1878.....		July 1	Oct. 18-22
1879.....		June 22	Oct. 21-25
1880.....	June 22	June 28	Oct. 20-27
1881.....	June 10	June 19	Nov. 7
1882.....	June 8	June 24	Oct. 23
1883.....	June 1	June 22	Nov. 6
1884.....	June 10		Oct. 6
1885.....		June 24	
1886.....	June 11	June 20	Oct. 22
1887.....		June 20	Oct. 29-Nov. 6
1888.....	May 31	June 25	Oct. 22-31
1889.....	June 9	July 4	Nov. 10-16
1890.....	June 3	July 13	Oct. 25-Nov. 9
1891.....	June 6	June 29	Nov. 6
1892.....	June 11	June 18	Oct. 29
1893.....	June 10	June 24	Nov. 7
1894.....	June 15	June 25	Oct. 26
1895.....	June 18	June 29	Oct. 24-Nov. 4
1896.....	June 25	July 7	Nov. 2
1897.....	June 14	June 26	Oct. 18 to 21
1898.....	June 13	June 13	
1899.....	June 13	June 18	Oct. 25
1900.....	June 6	June 14	Oct. 21

There is no doubt that North-bound travelers will reach Nome earlier by way of the open ocean routes at least nine years out of ten than by way of the Yukon, if the water travel on the Yukon is depended on. The Yukon usually opens about May 15 to May 20, but steamers ocean-bound from up river are then compelled to wait at the mouth of the river until the great mass of ice that has come down can get out to sea.

Oftentimes this does not occur until well into June, and there is still ice along the coast about the mouth of the river until July.

OPENING OF NAVIGATION, 1900.

The shore ice last year broke up at Nome on May 13, and when the late risers awoke in the morning they saw, on looking to seaward, that the fringe of ice which hugged the beach of Bering Sea for many months had disappeared as far as the eye could reach, and the vision was unobstructed save by the ice floe slowly drifting out to sea; and several early "mushers" bound up the beach narrowly escaped being carried out with it. The year previous the shore ice broke loose and floated out to sea on June 1.



WILD GOOSE RAILROAD—TRAIN GOING FROM NOME TO ANVIL CREEK CLAIMS.

The first steamer to arrive at Nome was a whaler, arriving May 21; another whaler arrived May 23, and the next, the steamer "Alpha," forty-nine days out from Vancouver.

The first vessels to arrive in the year 1899 were whalers, which showed up June 5. The steamship "Roanoke" arrived June 17 with a very large passenger list. Following her other vessels arrived in rapid succession. It is related by the old inhabitants of Nome that three years ago whalers arrived there May 18. The arrival of the first ship last year was greeted with cheers.

The last steamer to leave Nome 1900, was the "Centennial," November 8, at which time ice had begun to form. Twenty steamers arrived at Nome in the week ending June

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16; and from May 21 to June 23 more than fifty steamers arrived, besides other small crafts, and from May 21 to the arrival of the last boat at least 70,000 people arrived there, and about 1,500 or 2,000 persons went down the Yukon by the river steamers and small boats.

PORT CLARENCE AND VICINITY

Taking rank in importance after Nome, the Port Clarence country, about 100 miles west of Nome, comprises several districts, already named among the judicial divisions of the country. All of these are on or close to the navigable waters of Port Clarence Bay, Grantley Harbor and one or the other of the numerous rivers that flow into these.

The Bluestone strike, made famous at the close of the past season by reason of the fabulous wealth of that stream and some of its tributaries, promises to far eclipse either the great Eldorado claims of the Klondike, or even Anvil Creek itself.

The Bluestone River empties into the Tooksuch River, and this river into Grantley Harbor. Gold Run, Lucky Strike, Quartz and Alder creeks have perhaps been more prospected than others, and all of them have given prospects so rich that a schedule of the prospects would be received with scepticism by even those who knew how immensely rich were the finds on Anvil and other of the rich streams. There are about seventy-five streams comprising the Bluestone.

Unlike most of the Nome mining ground, the creeks of the Bluestone are very deep to bedrock, but in this particular case it makes very little difference, since the pay streak is said to begin two or three feet from the surface and extends below any of the prospects made last fall. It has been ascertained that there is a false bedrock a few feet below the surface, composed of mica schist and clay concrete, and below this gravel is again reached, the bottom of which had not been found at the close of navigation.

There is plenty of water during the whole season in all the Bluestone, and since it is convenient for the freighting of sluicing material there is no question that the district will be well looked after next season.

TELLER CITY

The new town of Teller City is located on the sandspit dividing Port Clarence Bay and Grantley Harbor, and is coming into prominence because of its natural advantages as a supply station for the gold regions. Situated as it is at the very gateway of the Bluestone and Kougarak mining districts, its chances of becoming the liveliest camp west of Nome are exceedingly good. The harbor is completely landlocked, safe and commodious and deep sea-going vessels can anchor close to shore and passengers and cargo may be quickly and safely lightered. It is the only point on the coast where quick connection may



Unloading from Sailing Vessel onto the Beach at Grantley Harbor.

be made with a railway. The country has already been examined with this end in view, and it is probable that a survey of the proposed route will be complete this fall and possibly building operations be commenced next spring. The town is paved by nature with polished slate and quartz pebbles. At the south end of the town is a fresh water lake about two miles long, containing sufficient water to supply a population of 50,000; there is also fine spring water which can be obtained by digging wells six to ten feet deep. There is already a considerable settlement at Teller, a city laid out with streets and alleys and all preparations made in anticipation of a good sized town this coming season.

BERING CITY.

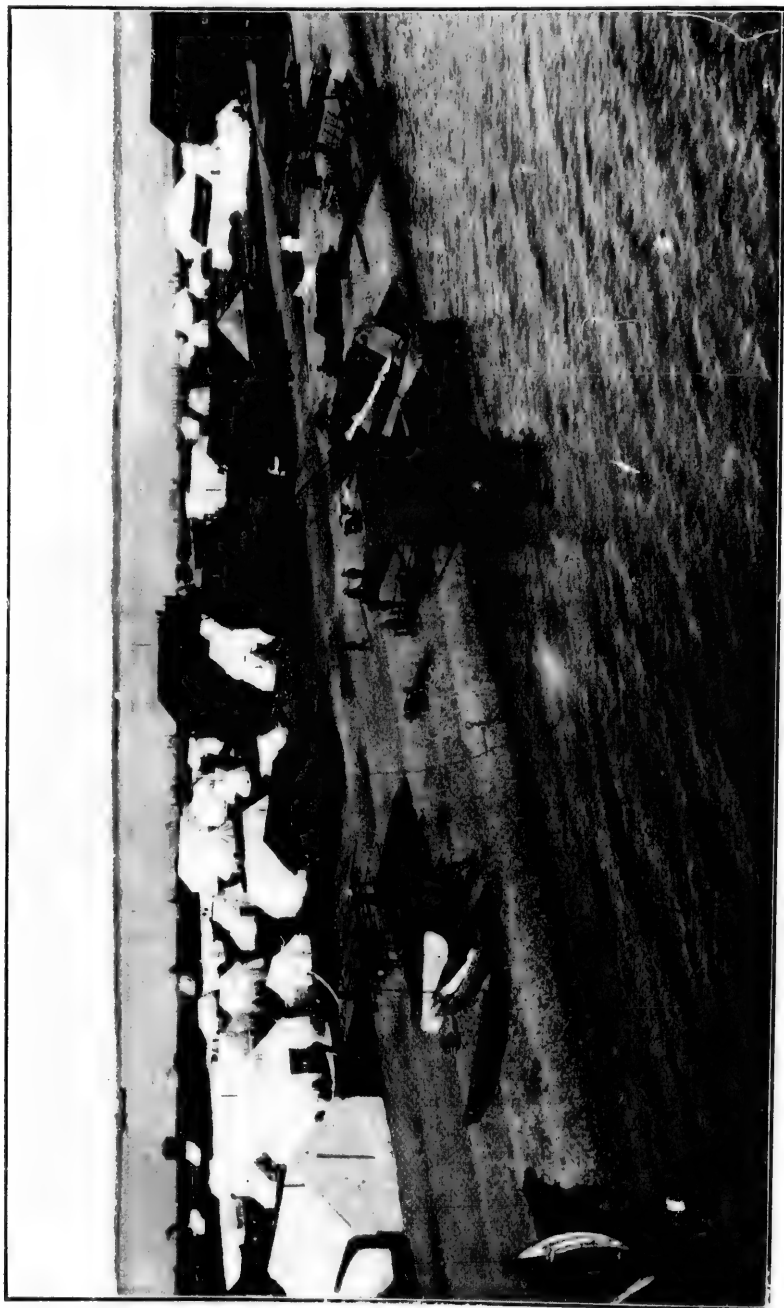
This small place is located about six miles southwest of Teller City, on the east shore of Port Clarence bay and on account of the shorter trails into the Bluestone district than via Teller City, it is now considered that Bering City will be the outfitting point for that district. A glance at this company's map of Port Clarence district will show the relative position of Bering City to Teller City, and why the former will be the outfitting point for the Bluestone district and the latter for the Kougarok district.

THE KUGAROK DISTRICT

The Kougarok offers to prospectors a vast and unexplored country, with plenty of room for new locations. It has been claimed for several years that there were pay deposits in the Kougarok, so that the recent strike did not come as a surprise. The Kougarok may be said to consist of a vast interior mining country, which form the great arch or semi-circle behind Nome, and is practically unexplored, save in small portions, which are said to have yielded prospects of high promise. Through all this interior country is a great chain of rivers and creeks. There is little doubt but this district will prove one of the richest which has been found in the North, for there are fifty creeks, all of which are rich. The district is first reached fifty miles from the mouth of the Kougarok River. At that point dirt has been found that runs \$21.50 to the pan. One of the richest creeks is Garfield, below Larson's discovery. Quartz Creek, in this district, is reported as being phenomenally rich, as \$3,000 was cleaned up from the surface dirt in a six hours' run. There are many other rich creeks, among which might be mentioned Harris, North Fork, Taylor, Neva, Louise, Coarse Gold, Henry and others, all showing pay where a hole has been sunk to bedrock. It may prove to be the most wonderful country that has been found in the North.

About the close of the season a second strike was reported on the Kougarok, where it is claimed that twenty-five cents to the pan has been obtained. It might be added that in Garfield Creek, which is thirty miles long, there has not been found a single blank claim.

An effect of the development of the Kougarok district will



SECTION OF TELLER CITY. NO. 1, SEPTEMBER, 1900.

undoubtedly be the creation of Port Clarence as a port of entry, as it is the most convenient place to the new gold fields, and in addition has a splendid harbor, where ships may safely lie at anchor during the roughest weather.

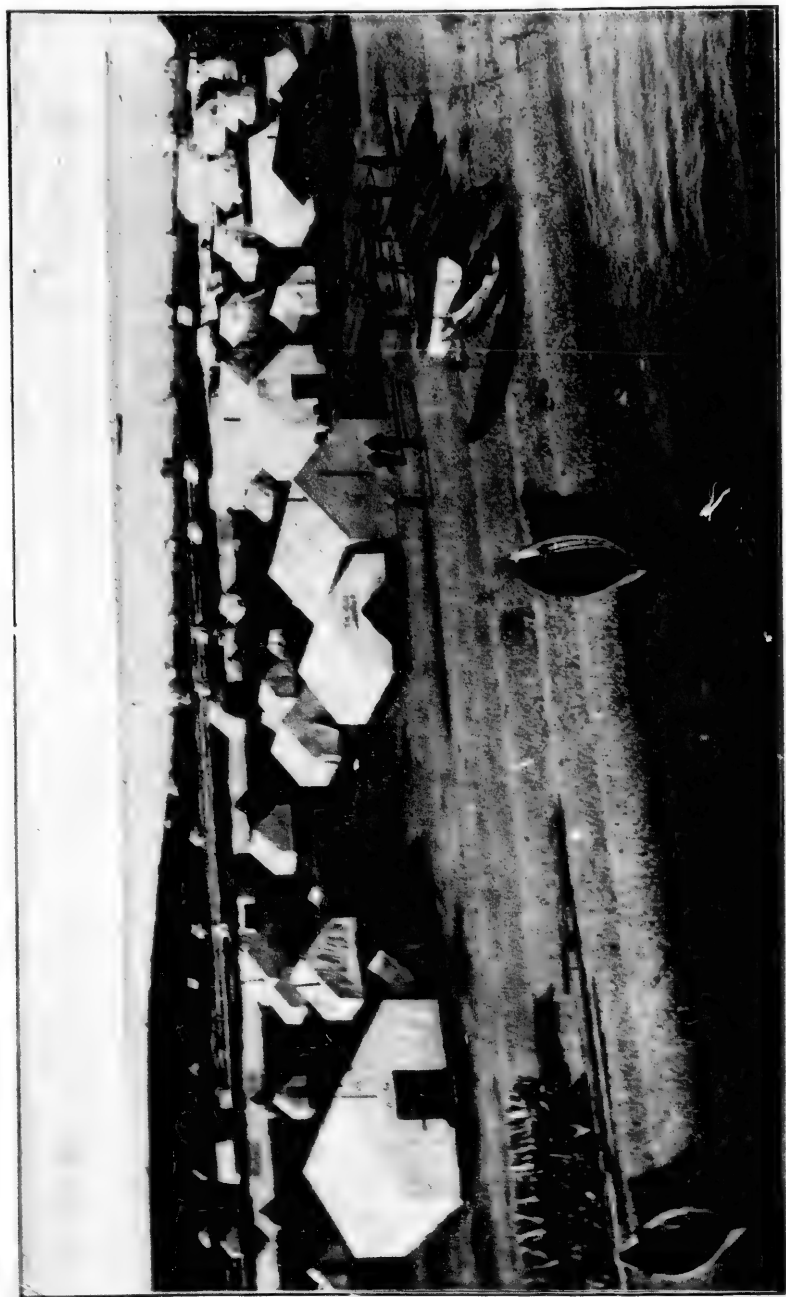
Angeles and Horseshoe, both tributaries of Garfield Creek, are turning out good prospects, although no bona fide work has been done on either as yet. As much as \$14.00 to the pan has been taken out of Quartz Creek; and Dahl, Coffee, Right Fork, and, in fact, all of the tributaries of Quartz Creek are showing equally rich. Pay dirt is reported to have been found on four different claims on Harris Creek, on Kougarok River, about ninety miles from Port Clarence; on No. 2 above an Alder Creek; on a pup coming into the latter at No. 2; on the north fork of the Kougarok, at the mouth of the latter; on No. 24 Taylor Creek, and on the north fork of No. 1, above the mouth of the Kougarok.

The reports coming from the Kougarok country are exceedingly roseate, and this section promises to have a veritable boom this year. Mr. A. R. McAdam, formerly recorder for the district, but now the owner of one of the richest claims on Quartz Creek, says that on No. 7 Quartz Creek, four men working fourteen hours shoveled in \$763. Bedrock has not been reached, but there is four feet of pay. Prospecting twenty feet from the bed of the creek showed fifteen feet of fifteen-cent dirt, one of the most phenomenal bodies of pay gravel that has been struck in the country. Sluicing is also in progress on Dahl Creek, and excellent results are being obtained. On Boulder Creek good pay has also been found.

KOUGAROK TRAVELING.

Between Nome and the Kougarok are several road houses situated at suitable and convenient distances. After leaving Teller City on the way to the Kougarok the first day's travel will bring a man to a commodious road house on Salt Lake. It is an improvised affair, built in a two-masted schooner and fitted up in very comfortable fashion. The following day's travel will bring one to Mary's Igloo, which is about sixty miles from Teller and twenty-five miles from the mouth of the Kougarok. From Mary's Igloo to the Kougarok is good traveling; in fact, the trail is good the entire distance.

Another way is to go from Nome to Shea's road house, cross over to Gold Run, and thence to Salt Lake and up the Kougarok River to the headwaters of the Kougarok.



SECTION OF TELLER CITY, NO. 2, SEPTEMBER, 1900.

ARCTIC DISTRICT

This is a new district, located across the divide from Cape York and commencing at the mouth of the Arctic River. Although no systematic work has been done, the reports indicate great wealth. It is reported on fairly good authority that one of the discoverers of the district came in last fall with \$17,000, taken from Tuttle Creek. Claims of discoveries ranging from \$1.50 to \$15.00 per pan are made for the district.

Coal fields have been located in the Arctic district, twenty miles beyond Cape Lisburn, on the coast. Just prior to the close of navigation last fall a large barge of the product was taken to Nome and disposed of at a high price. The coal is said to be of the same high grade as the other coals along the Alaska coast. These coal fields have been known to the whalers in those waters for several years, and they were frequently used for coaling purposes. Revenue cutters have also been accustomed to replenish their bunkers from these same croppings. Without doubt, another year will see this coal in a large measure supplying the miners and vessels all about this section of the country.

THE GOOD HOPE DISTRICT

This district is the newest of all the mining districts in the Nome country. It lies east of the Arctic district, and embraces Good Hope and other rivers emptying into Schismareff Inlet. United States Commissioner and Deputy Recorder Thompson, by whose influence the district was created, send out \$3,700 just about the close of navigation last fall, after two weeks' prospecting in company with two other men. He reports many streams in the district and good prospects from several of them. Commissioner Thompson proposes to return to Nome for the winter and to return early in the spring with loaded dog teams to be on the ground for early work next season.



GRAND CANYON OF THE BLUESTONE

COUNCIL CITY DISTRICT

The present ocean port for this district is at Chinik, an old trading post at the head of Golovin Bay. From Chinik the bay extends fifteen miles inland, where Fish River begins. Here timber twelve inches through is found, which runs all the way up the river to a few miles about Council City. About ten miles above the mouth of Fish River is White Mountain, where the North American Transportation and Trading Company have put up a large warehouse from which to distribute supplies to the company's store at Council City and the Council City district. Neukluk is the first large stream running in on the left hand side of Fish River, about twelve miles above White Mountain. Gold has not been found below a point about seven miles above the mouth of the Neukluk. The general formation of the country along the stream is low, rolling hills, very much ground down, and the general country rock is slate in various formation. Council City is situated on a high bluff overlooking the river, and was first started in the fall of 1897.

There are about 700 people wintering at Council City this year, many of whom left Nome on account of the abundance of wood for fuel in the neighborhood. Much prospecting has been done in the Council City district. Sweet Cake, the Black Chief, Boulder and Quartz Creeks are some of those most highly thought of, but very many rich prospects are reported. One of the companies is putting in a sawmill this winter, and will begin work getting out sluice lumber as soon as possible. There are now several scows at the mouth of Fish River, ready to be loaded with supplies for up-river points in the spring, and already plans are under way for one or more light draft steamers for that river. Several rich quartz ledges have been discovered in this district, one of which has been owned and worked for ten years past. Now that the facilities are at hand for working the property economically, the coming season will make a very busy time in that vicinity.

TOPKUK.

The so-called Topkuk district lies between Golovin Bay and Nome River, taking its name from the Topkuk River, on a branch of which, Daniels Creek, the discovery of gold was first



GOLD RUN, BLUESTONE DISTRICT, CLAIM NO. 9.

made. It is estimated that nearly or quite \$500,000 was taken out of the two or three claims at discovery. The unfortunate litigation that so affected the work in other parts of the Nome country also tied up the Daniels Creek claims, but the settlement of this litigation about the close of navigation makes a systematic development of this section assured this coming season. The claims hereabouts are now in the hands of a large number of people, and as they lie close to the coast and are easily reached, there is no doubt that economical transportation will render it profitable to work nearly every claim in the district.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION AT NOME

Like the formation of every part of Alaska, the country of the Sumner Peninsula shows the result of great and comparatively recent volcanic action. There is practically no rock in place, and the aqueous formation is generally upheaved and transformed into a metamorphic character. The base of the "country rock" is a mica schist, with well defined strata of limestone out of place. By the last great upheaval the tilting occurred from about the center of the peninsula, giving a trend northwestward and southwestward. The limestone is a blueish gray, fine grained and often assuming a metamorphic or crystalline form. The mica schist is slaty, generally decomposed, sometimes metamorphic, as indicating the volcanic evolution, and is throughout garneliferous, giving rise to the "ruby sand" of the beaches. These country rocks of limestone and schist are seamed and traversed by veins and ledges of quartz, quartzite, calcite and the various pyrites of copper and iron. These pyrites are also occasionally disseminated sporadically and without order through the decomposed schist. It is said by those fancying that theory that all the placer gold of the country came from these quartz ledges. It is quite certain that in some places the gold of the creeks is still closely attached to pieces of quartz, jagged and rough at the edges, showing its origin in a formation of that nature. For instance, such a form of gold occurs on New Year Gulch, a branch of Anvil Creek, where also there are outcroppings of quartz ledges containing at inter-

vals great quantities of free gold. In other creeks of the immediate neighborhood, and even in Anvil, the gold is comparatively free from quartz, and is smooth sided, showing that it has traveled over considerable distances before being finally deposited.

Far back in the mountains behind Nome, and indeed throughout the foothills of the Rockies that originated the Sumner Peninsula, the basis of the rock formation is granite, and a large proportion of the sea gravel of the beaches is of that form.

EARLY HISTORY

It was Humbolt's primary theory that a great gold belt extended from the Arctic Ocean in the Rockies to Cape Horn, and because of the peculiar formation, he held that the Far North contained by far the greater part of the precious metal. In 1889 or thereabouts Prof. T. C. Mendenhall, director of the Geodetic and Coast Survey Department of the United States government, went further than his celebrated predecessor and undertook, in a report of an actual survey made by him, to trace the gold belt through the Alaska Peninsula. He picked it up in the foothills of the Rockies, at a point not 100 miles back of Nome, followed it to the headwaters of the Koyukuk and Porcupine rivers, thence along the western slope of the Rockies, at the exact point of the source of the Klondike River, which sweeps across the great valley east of the Dawson hills. He then ranged south along the headwaters of the Stewart and Big Salmon rivers, east of Lake Teslin and the Hootalinqua, to and through the great Peace River country to the Kootenais; thence to the States, where long before that the gold-bearing belt was known to lie.

Those familiar with the history of gold-hunting in Alaska and the Yukon will readily associate the gold-bearing areas, as they have been discovered, with the theory of Prof. Mendenhall, and the attempts of prospectors to reach back into the foothills northwest of the Kougarok, behind Nome, largely rests upon a vague and sometimes half ignorant desire to get to the gold source as indicated by him.

It is hardly a mooted question that before many months some rich finds of the quartz nature will repay the hardy prospector in those rocky fastnesses.

UP THE YUKON

In 1881 placer gold was first discovered in paying quantities on the Yukon, but for reasons we all know very little was done in the way of prospecting or working until the great Dawson strike of 1896. Since then, under the stimulus of the immense rewards in the way of fortunes, every part of Alaska has been at least prospected and hundreds of pay strikes have been made, some of which we will briefly touch upon in the following pages.

THE KUSKOKWIM

On leaving St. Michael for the upper river the first point arrived at that will engage the gold seeker's interest is the new Kuskokwim district, about which so much news of an indirect character has been finding its way to the "outside" since navigation closed. Should this district eventually prove to be "pay," it will be unique among all other gold diggings of Alaska by reason of the fact that for several years the Kongallion Indians, who live in that country, have been bringing gold to the coast, and to the Holy Cross Mission on the Yukon, stating that the gold was taken from the Kuskokwim. Little attention was paid to their story until late last summer, when a small party went in by way of the Mission. They were followed by others, some of whom remained in the country for the winter, while others kept going south and finally arrived at Katmai on the coast, when they came by steamer to the States.

No very accurate information has come out about what has been actually achieved in those diggings. It is known, of course, that gold was found and that a great stampede took place this last winter from Nome, Circle, Fort Yukon, Weare and Rampart and other sections. Spring will probably open up with several hundreds of people on the ground and a great scarcity of provisions.

The best way to get to the Kuskokwim diggings in shape to do work is to go by the "Roanoke" to St. Michael, thence by

river steamer to Holy Cross Mission, thence overland a distance of about 250 miles.

The Yellow River, a tributary of the Kuskokwim, joining the latter at a point a few miles south of the Kolmanoff redoubt, and on the headwaters of the Utskutch and the south fork of the Kuskokwim, are the two points named as among those on which good strikes were made the latter part of the last season.

RAMPART—(Manook District)

The little city, consisting of about 450 log cabins, is one of the most interesting on the Yukon River, and is headquarters for the Manook mining district, which was established in the



HEADQUARTERS N. A. T. & T. CO AT RAMPART.

fall of 1897. Among the largest stores and warehouses located at this point are those of the N. A. T. & T. Co., a half-tone of which is printed on this page. Several flattering prospects have been taken from the different claims during the past year. The creeks which have proved to be the best producers so far are Big and Little Manook. There is a trail running from Rampart to the Koyukuk diggings by way of the

Dahl River. If further discoveries are made on tributaries of the lower Tanana part of its trade will go to Rampart, from which point a winter trail could easily be made.

It is reported that the original deposit which feeds Hunker, Little Manook, Jr., Hoosier and Big Manook creeks has practically been established in the way of an old stream from discovery on Idaho Bar to Eureka Creek and is a summer proposition, being from three to five feet in depth and runs from five cents to fifty cents per pan, and on the average paying \$50 per day to the shovel. The large territory tributary to Rampart has not been thoroughly prospected, and when it is there will no doubt be further rich deposits found.

Rampart is now the headquarters for the United States land office for that district, as well as the office for receiving and disbursing public moneys.

WEARE—(Tanana)

The future of this trading post, located at the mouth of the Tanana River, is very bright. Large companies are now located there, with good stores and warehouses containing



N. A. T. & T. Co's Station at WEARE, YUKON RIVER.

expensive stocks of goods. The new finds in the Chatanika district, on a tributary of the Tanana River, as well as those on Clear and Snake creeks, and the discoveries of copper at the headwaters of the Tanana River, will undoubtedly make Weare Station the outfitting point for these districts. The Tanana River is said to be navigable to Bates Rapids by steamers, and as soon as business will justify steamers will be placed on that river to take care of this business. The district lying at the headwaters of the Tanana River promises to be one of the best in Alaska, and without doubt will prove to be the best field for prospecting for several years to come.

FORT YUKON

A half-tone of this company's station at Fort Yukon is shown on this page. It has been the trading station principally for the Porcupine River district and a transshipping point at low stage of water in the Yukon on what is known as the Yukon Flats, which extends for some 350 or 400 miles. It was first located in 1845 by the Hudson Bay Company, when it was thought to be in British territory. Later, on the arrival of



THE COMPANY'S HEADQUARTERS AT FORT YUKON.

the representatives of the United States government and its location ascertained, the Hudson Bay Company removed its agency to the McKenzie River, on the Canadian side. It is the most northern and one of the oldest trading posts in Alaska.

Birch Creek, the diggings on which are more convenient to Circle City, empties into the Yukon from the south, a few miles below Fort Yukon, and the Porcupine River flows into the Yukon from the north at Fort Yukon. An Episcopal mission is located at this point.

The Chandelar, or St. Jean de la Mar River, empties into the Yukon about twenty five miles below Fort Yukon. It is up this river that miners go to get into the Koyukuk diggings over the ice. There are some excellent indications of both quartz and placer up this river and its branches, but little or no prospecting has been done. At the end of last season reports came out of strikes on the Chandelar, but nothing definite is known. It is a fine country, well wooded, full of game, especially ptarmigan, and the river is full of fish.

CHATANIKA DISTRICT

Strikes in these diggings, in what is known as the Chatanika district, have been confirmed. The principal strikes have been made on Faith, Hope and Charity and Homestake creeks. These diggings lie almost 100 miles southwest from Circle City, and the winter trail leads through the old Birch Creek claims. The developed claims in this district were yielding from \$20.00 to \$30.00 per day to the man on No. 1 above discovery below Homestake, the last reports showing \$23.00 to the shovel. No. 3 below discovery is very rich. Fifteen feet is the average depth of bedrock of the gravel, and is both summer and winter diggings. Most of the prospected creeks empty into the Chatanika River 200 miles from its mouth. The latter point is 200 miles from the mouth of the Tanana River. Several people went into this district late last season for the purpose of staking a town-site, but they have not been heard from since departing for this district, and we are therefore unable to give the location and name of same. (See N. A. T. & T. Co.'s sectional map.)

CIRCLE CITY—(Birch Creek District)

Circle City is the largest mining camp on the American side, consisting of nearly 600 log cabins. The Birch Creek diggings are among the best in the interior on the Alaska side, having been worked since 1891, and more mining will be carried on there the coming year than at any time in the past. There are many creeks in this district that are good producers, and in addition to supplying the needs of the Birch Creek district, Circle City is at present also supplying Chatanika district.



THE COMPANY'S HEADQUARTERS AT CIRCLE CITY.

Supplies for the latter, however, will be furnished by Weare Station, at the mouth of the Tanana River, as soon as steamers are placed on that river.

This district suffered more from the stampedes to the Klondike and Nome districts than any others, but every indication at present is that it is going to be one of the most prosperous camps on the American side. The district is a large one, and has many creeks on which there are a number of moderate producers, which will be thoroughly worked from now on. (See article "To the Tourist," published elsewhere in this booklet, for description of the midnight sun at Circle City.)

EAGLE CITY COUNTRY

Eagle City is one of the prettiest locations on the Yukon River; its houses are all well built, and the climate and soil are such as to admit of something being done in the way of agriculture. It is the distributing point for the diggings on American River, and the numerous tributaries of Forty-Mile on the American side. It is also a military post. Considerable attention is being attracted towards the American and Forty-Mile districts, and while no great strikes have been reported from



THE COMPANY'S STATION AT EAGLE CITY.

these districts this season, many good claims have been developed on which good pay has been found and a wave of prosperity exists.

The Eagle City town site was laid out the latter part of January, 1898, and the growth of this new American camp has been something wonderful. The location of this camp on the American side has been a blessing to the miners in the American Forty-Mile district, as they are now able to secure their provisions, machinery, etc., without paying duties, which they were heretofore compelled to do on account of purchasing such articles at Forty-Mile post on the Canadian side.



CLIFF CREEK COAL MINES—SCENE ON CLIFF CREEK RAILROAD, OWNED BY N. A. T. & T. CO.

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CLIFF CREEK

This is the point at which the bunkers for the N. A. T. & T. Co.'s Cliff Creek coal mines are located, and which is about 65 miles below Dawson, on the North side of the Yukon River. These mines produce a good domestic and steam coal, and by analysis it is better than any other coal found in the interior of Alaska or Yukon Territory. In 1899 about 1,500 tons was used for river steamers and for heating purposes during the winter at Dawson, and so popular was this coal that in the



N. A. T. & T. Co's Yukon River Steamer "JOHN CUDAHY" and Barge.

season of 1900 nearly 5,000 tons were consumed. The prospects for 1901 are that these mines will produce about 10,000 tons of coal. One ton of this coal is equal to two or two and one-half cords of wood, and with the scarcity of fuel wood in and about Dawson for domestic purposes, as well as along the Yukon River for steamboat fuel, the discovery of this coal has been a great boon for the upper Yukon country, and the supply will last for a great many years and take care of all stations as well as steamers on the river, and at a great deal less cost than has heretofore been paid for fuel.

FORT CUDAHY AND FORTY-MILE

(FORTY-MILE RIVER)

It was from Forty-Mile that the original stampeders to the Klondike went in the summer of 1896. Miller and Glacier Creeks have been known as "ten-dollar diggings" since 1886, and it was because of the superior wealth of the Klondike that the Forty-Mile district was deserted in 1896. Since then many of the old-timers returned, and within the past two years some very rich finds have been made. On Jack Wade, the richest



N. A. T. & T. CO'S PLANT AT FORT CUDAHY.

of all the branches, so far discovered, there were seven thawing machines at work the past season, and the gold is the coarsest and of the highest purity, easily running \$19.00 to the ounce. Chicken, Rock and Eldorado all have paying properties, and scarcely a day passes that does not see a new pay streak uncovered.

Most of the prospecting and mining have been on the American side (see N. A. T. & T. Co.'s map), and part of the supplies have been purchased at Eagle City, because of the Canadian duties from the town of Forty-Mile, which is on the

Canadian side. The United States military forces have cut a trail through from the Forty-Mile diggings to Port Valdes.

There is a very large area of ground in this district well fitted for hydraulic work, and several mine owners are now figuring on plants of that kind.

One of the recent finds on Rock Creek, a branch of Forty-Mile, is said to be very rich, a nugget of \$250 being reported. Bedrock averages about nine feet from the surface, and the gold very coarse and easy to save.

THE KLONDIKE

At this late day, a story of the Klondike would seem to be almost ridiculous, when facts and figures are at hand to prove what has been actually achieved. Of course, there are people who still have a suspicion that the newspaper reports from the Klondike are rank "fakes," and that there is and has been a deliberately planned conspiracy to defraud the public into the country. Those, however, who are familiar with the fact, know that not only is this not true, but rather is the contrary the case. Nearly every intelligent man operating in Alaska appreciates the fact that there are enough people in the country to insure its development, and that the proper kind of "new blood" will not be influenced by any kind of statements, when they may go and see for themselves, what it is all like; so that the vast majority of "returning Klondikers" are far more apt to understand the case than over-do it by exaggeration. However, neither extreme is at all necessary, and in this little book we will be content to give some figures concerning the Dawson Country that will be of interest.

The following figures, compiled from the records of the Dawson Customs House, speak a great deal for the future of the country, and it will be noted that the immense quantity of 32,000 tons of general merchandise and machinery were delivered at Dawson during the season of navigation of 1900.

Steamer arrivals, 258.

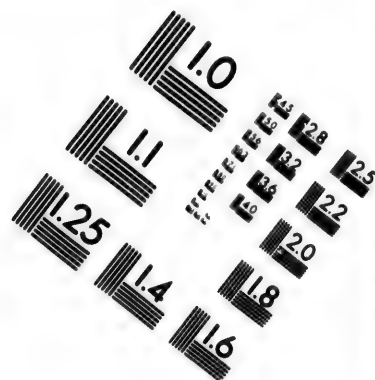
Steamer departures, 263.

Passengers arrived, 5,470.

Passengers departed, 6,873.

Tons freight received, 32,000.

In addition to the freight receipts shown in the above



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N. A. T. & T. CO'S RIVER STEAMER "JOHN J. HEALY" LYING AT WHARF, DAWSON.

table, there were also shipped into Dawson five thousand tons of coal from the North American Transportation & Trading Company's Cliff Creek coal mines, about 65 miles below Dawson, and which was the first coal shipped to the Dawson market.

The population at Dawson and on the creeks in the Klondike district is about the same as it was a year ago, namely, 5,000 at Dawson and about 5,000 on the creeks. On account of the increase in tonnage and improvement in transportation facilities, freight charges have been greatly reduced, and all classes of goods may be purchased at very reasonable prices; in fact, not much more than Seattle prices, plus transportation charges. With good roads and trails, which the Canadian government is making and preparing to give to this country, and with plenty of machinery, this district will prove more prosperous than ever, and it will take years to work it out. The introduction of improved mining machinery to work the mines to better advantage during the summer, will prove of great advantage.

Many new strikes have been made this year, in which it is claimed that the diggings near the head waters of the McQuesten, a tributary of the Stewart River, are producing from \$20.00 to \$50.00 per day to the man. Good reports also come from many point up the river from Dawson, which will be treated in another article. Contrary to the general supposition, people at Dawson dress much the same as they do in the cities of the States. With good streets and sidewalks, one can now walk over the town with polished shoes without getting them soiled. It presents no appearance of a mining town, and impresses one as a thriving commercial center, with rows of splendidly equipped stores and substantial wharves and warehouses, good hotels, streets lighted with electricity, telephone service, locally and to all the creeks, and there is talk of an electric railway being constructed this year; many new homes are being built—good substantial frame buildings. Public schools have been opened, and are well attended.

With a reduction in royalty and the throwing open to relocation of all mining property, which has been reserved by the Dominion Government, there is no doubt that the output of the district will be greater than heretofore, and considerable increase in the population as well. The principal creeks in this



GOLD MINERS' CABIN, BONANZA CREEK

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district are the Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunker, Gold Run, Bear, Last Chance, Dominion, Sulphur, Quartz and Ophir.

The far-reaching changes now being wrought in the development of this district mean that within the very near future the supplies will be taken to the mines from Dawson during the winter and the bulk of the mining done in the summer.

Recently there have been some discoveries of quartz, very rich in gold, especially on Eldorado Creek, and about Great Dome, and the conditions underlying these strikes leave the firm impression that quartz mining is destined to play a great part in the development of the Dawson country.

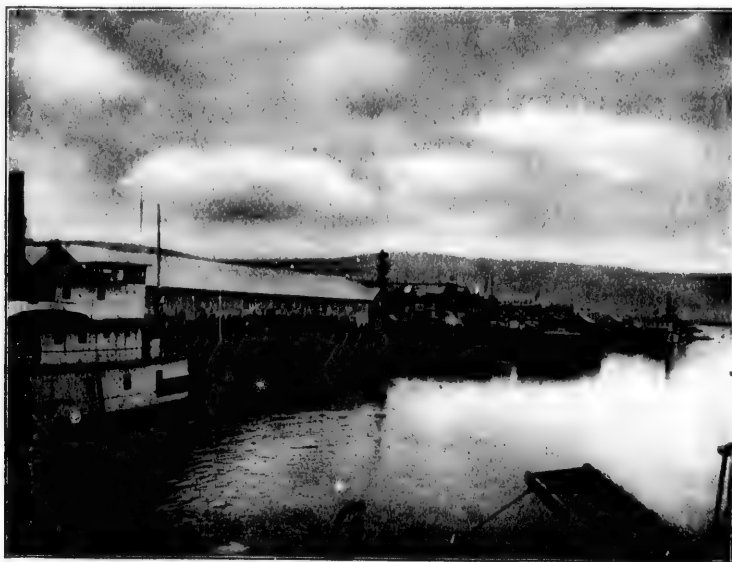
DISTRICTS ABOVE DAWSON ON TRIBUTARIES OF YUKON

In addition to the report that valuable ground has been discovered on the head waters of the Klondike River, late news received from the interior indicate remarkably rich strikes on several tributaries on the north side of the Yukon River, principally among which are the rich placer diggings on Clear Creek, and on the head waters of the Stewart River, on Dornix Creek, which is tributary of the McQuesten, the largest branch of the Stewart. On the former, it is reported, that pans go from \$1.50 to \$3.00, and on the latter 25 cents. It is reported that about 500 prospectors are wintering on these tributaries of the Stewart River, and the Yukon authorities may have to establish a police post at the mouth of the McQuesten River.

What is called the "Big Reef," on Indian River, about 50 miles overland in a southeasterly direction, and about 71 miles via Yukon and up the Indian River, was discovered in June of the present year. There are two reefs running parallel with each other, and are from four to five hundred feet wide and about three miles apart. The space between them is said to be a solid bed of conglomerate, assaying in value from \$5 to \$7 per ton, but one assay is said to have gone considerably higher. It is generally supposed that the reef is a low-grade free-milling rock, and if workable there is enough in sight to keep many mills going for a long time, which means the established future and permanency of Dawson.

The conglomerate is bluish in color, except exposed portions, where it has been weathered to a whitish color. By some it is thought to be the bed of an old lake, where streams emptied their load of sand, detritus, mixed with some gold, and that later the strata were covered over and compressed under tremendous weight into a sort of rock, and was then thrown up by volcanic action.

Livingston Creek, a tributary of the Big Salmon, is attracting special attention this year, but has not been sufficiently developed for us to say that it will be a good producer. Bed rock on this creek is reported to be from 25 to 60 feet deep,



N. A. T. & T. Co's WHARF, DAWSON.

which makes it very expensive to operate the mines.

At the head of White River there are valuable copper deposits, as well also at White Horse, the head of navigation, and between which point and Skagway the railroad now operates.

Other creeks prospecting well in the Big Salmon district are Summit, Cottoneva, Martin, Mendocino and Lake Creeks.

White Horse, the terminus of the White Pass Railway, is becoming an important copper mining camp, and will be the distributing point for a large territory. It is the intention of the citizens to cut a trail through from there to Big Salmon

district, and they were considering a petition to the Ottawa Government, asking for the location of an assistant commissioner at that point, in order to take care of the growing wants of the new district.

ST. MICHAEL AND KOYUKUK

At the present time there is not much to interest the prospector or miner between St. Michael and the Koyukuk River. The distance is about 650 miles, of which 70 miles are on the Bering sea, between St. Michael and the mouth of the Yukon River. Passing up the river, many Indian villages



HOLY CROSS MISSION.

are passed, and for the first 250 or 300 miles no timber is to be seen, fuel at these points being secured by catch of drift wood down the river during the period of high water. Kutlik is the first of these stations, after which Andreafsky, quite a large settlement, is passed. Russian Mission and Holy Cross Mission are the next two stations, the former having the Greek Church and missionaries, while at the latter point are located the Jesuit Fathers. They are both large native villages, and located in a very fertile district where all kinds of vegetables are raised and supplied to passing steamers. The trading posts Pymute, Blackburn, Kaltag and Kokrines, are known principally as fuel stations. Anvik, at the mouth of the Anvik

River, is the most flourishing village on the Yukon below Weare. At this point is located the Episcopal Mission Church and school under the charge of the Rev. Chapman, who is very popular with the natives along the lower Yukon. At Nulato, which is about 650 miles from the mouth of the river, is located another Russian Mission. It was at this point that the North American Transportation and Trading Company's first river steamer, the P. B. Weare, put in the winter of 1892, it being impossible to ascend the river any further on account



N. A. T. & T. CO'S STEAMER "T. C. POWER."

of ice forming. It is the large trading post nearest to the mouth of the Koyukuk River, and there is historical interest attached to Nulato on account of the trouble in the early days with the Koyukuk Indians.

The Koyukuk empties into the Yukon from the north about 20 miles above Nulato, and it is one of the principal tributaries. It is navigable for about 600 miles by river steamers, and above this point small steamers of light draft navigate many miles more.

KOYUKUK DIGGINGS

The gold finds of this river and its tributaries have been mostly in districts 500 miles or more up the river. The report of Mr. F. C. Schrader, Asst. U. S. Geologist, is the most authentic information of recent date, in connection with the discoveries, and reads as follows:

"The Koyukuk River flows into the Yukon about 20 miles above Nulato, and has a large drainage basin, which heads in the northeastern part of Alaska, on the southern slope of the rugged divide which separates the drainage of the Arctic ocean on the north from that of the Yukon on the south.

"The Koyukuk gold region lies in the upper part of the basin, within the Arctic Circle, between (approximately) 67 degrees and 68 degrees latitude and 147 and 148 west longitude. The occurrence of placer gold at Tramway Bar, about 570 miles above the mouth of the river, on its middle fork, has been known for some time. These placers can probably be worked with a small amount of capital and means for hydraulicing.

"During the Klondike rush, in the summer of 1898, the Koyukuk region was visited by twelve hundred or more prospectors and explorers, many of whom ascended the river by steamboat, while others came by trail. After passing the winter there and finding but little or no gold, most of them followed the ice down the river by boat in the spring of 1899. In the meantime, however, in the month of March, coarse placer gold in paying quantities had been discovered on Slate Creek, an East-side tributary of the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk, which it enters 16 miles (approximately) above Tramway Bar. The discovery was made by members of the Dorothy party, commonly known as the "Dorothy boys," from Boston, Mass.

"The country rock is principally mica-schist and slate. It is uplifted and stands on edge, while the coarse gold occurs as shallow creek and gulch diggings. It is found principally on or near bed rock, in the jointings, fissures and cleavage crevices. The gravels rarely exceed three and one-half feet in thickness. The diggings begin about nine miles above the mouth of the creek and the confluence of the two main forks, of which the north one is known as the Myrtle Creek, and the south one as Slate Creek proper. From this point they extend up to the head of Myrtle Creek, a distance of five or six miles, and up Slate Creek considerably further. At the time the region was



PEAVY STATION.

visited by me, in August, 1899, but little mining, beyond development work, had as yet been attempted. Two mining districts have been organized, known as Slate Creek and Myrtle Creek districts. Most of the season was being devoted to bringing supplies and building cabins preparatory for winter. Sluicing had been begun on but two claims, one of which, on Myrtle Creek, reported the gravel as yielding from \$60 to \$80 per day per shovel. The gold is clean looking and coarse. It is considerably rolled, or flattened, and shows travel. The largest nugget taken out had a value of nearly \$20. The benches along these creeks are also found to be auriferous, and are reported to prospect from three to five cents per pan.

"In August there were reported to be 75 men at the diggings. A score or so others were on their way, many from along the South Fork, where they had been working with only moderate success during most of the summer. By estimate, there are probably 100 men now wintering (1899-1900) in the region. The establishment of a post at the mouth of Slate Creek during the coming winter is proposed by Pickarts, Bettles & Pickarts, who have much freight en route for the purpose. The principal summer route into the region is up the Koyukuk River by a flat-bottom steamboat. In winter the region may be reached by the trail leading overland from the Yukon near Fort Hamlin by way of Dahl River, or from the Yukon near of Chandelar River. Placer gold is known to occur over a somewhat wide range of country in the Koyukuk region, but, like that at Tramway Bar, the most of it may require capital to work the gravels. The placers on Slate and Myrtle Creeks are the only known rich diggings seen by members of the Survey. Late in August, 1899, word was received at Bergman that rich prospects had recently been found in a region known to the miners as Rocky Bottom, on the upper waters of Allatna or Allenkakat River, a large territory to the Koyukuk, which it enters from the northwest about 10 miles above Bergman."

The richness of the Koyukuk country is being exploited again, and it would appear from the most recent reports that such creeks as have been developed are rich. It is reported that Myrtle Creek claims were paying as high as one thousand to eleven hundred dollars in August, 1900. This confirms reports previously received, and there is no doubt there will be a mining settlement of considerable importance located in this district in the near future. The past reports respecting this district have been overestimated as to its richness, but the development on Myrtle, Slate, Emma, Clara, Gold and Gold Bench Creeks in the past season indicate that this region will prove rich without



NOME—MOUTH OF SNAKE RIVER SECTION, IN FOREGROUND, OCTOBER 1900.

a doubt. Myrtle Creek was the seat of the discovery two years ago, but its richness was not fully known until the spring of 1900. The gold belt in this district is about 50 miles in width and 20 miles long, and dust from Myrtle Creek is said to have assayed as high as \$19.00 per ounce. It is expected that quite a number of prospectors will go to this region in the spring of 1901. A glance at the North American Transportation and Trading Company's map of the Koyukuk district will show the location of above named creeks, which are near where the 66th parallel intersects the 148th degree of longitude.

From trustworthy sources it is reported that last fall, a large amount of prospecting had been done during the summer season, and that several finds had been made, chiefly on Gold, Rosy, Twelve-Mile and Alder, which had been re-located, the original name being McKinley. Bettie's Gold Bench, on the South Fork of the Koyukuk, produced nearly or quite \$60,000 for the season of 1900.

Tramway Bar, a high bench bar about 150 miles above Bergman, is an area apparently an old river bed, now lying perfectly level at an elevation of about 30 to 50 feet higher than the present water level. It is perhaps a quarter of a mile wide at its upper end, and thence widening out to nearly ten miles in width at its lower extremity, with a maximum length of perhaps twenty miles. Ten dollars to the shovel can be had almost anywhere at the river's edge, and there is no doubt that in the near future an immense hydraulic camp will be located at this bar.

The traveler on the Koyukuk will notice that in the birch bark of every native there is a "rocker." These natives have learned all about the value of the "yellow sand," and they have no trouble rocking out ten to fifteen dollars a day, whenever they need it, for trading at "the store." But heretofore, and even now, the wages on the Koyukuk are \$15.00 a day, or \$1.50 per hour, and no native will work longer than two or three hours a day while his wants are as limited as they now are.

Heretofore the cost of a white man's living on the Koyukuk was approximately \$10.00 a day, but this cost is rapidly decreasing, so that presently, with improved methods of mining and reduced cost of living, "ten-dollar rocker diggings" will be a very pretty proposition.

CENTRAL ALASKA

The Copper River country, and Cook's Inlet, have been known for several years, and there are now at Cook's Inlet some well established placer diggings of large area which for five years have been producing large and regular profits. Not many of these rich claims have been found, however, and the country has been abused by repeated and unreasonable stampedes, until it has not a good reputation among stampedeers.

The Copper River country, with Valdez as its headquarters, has met with a new impetus very recently, on account not only of some favorably reported strikes in the neighborhood, but because the U. S. Government, under Lieut. Abercrombie, is building a military wagon road from Valdez, through the Forty-Mile country to Eagle City, on the Yukon. It has been reported, moreover, that Abercrombie's surveys have shown the entire feasibility of building a railroad from that point to the Yukon, this giving an all-American route to the interior, a much-to-be-desired achievement.

Gold, copper and oil have all been found in the Copper River country. Some large capital promises to begin development in the near future, and as fuel coal has been found in great abundance, there is every incentive to renewed activity. There can be no doubt of the great and varied wealth of that great country lying between the headwaters of the Copper River, emptying into salt water, and the Tanana, flowing the other way into the Yukon. But much of this wealth will depend for its availability on railway transportation to water.

Some well defined placer diggings have already been prospected not far removed from Valdez. The Chestachina discovery, about 250 miles north of Valdez, and the Kongallion mines, about the same distance away to the west, are among these. A large influx of prospectors is now taking place in and about Valdez, and by the opening of the season it is predicted that several thousands of hardy miners will be in the hills of this section.

BRISTOL BAY.

Last summer there were well defined rumors of gold strikes on the Mushagak River, on Bristol Bay, and also in the vicinity of Good News Bay, but besides some moderate confirmation of the reports, nothing is known, and no definite information will be available until after the opening of navigation.

THE WOLF DOG OF THE NORTH

It is doubtful if any prospector or miner who returns from the north does not attempt to give a description of the native dog, generally called the "husky," but the best description so far coming to our attention is that given by Jack Loudon, of which the following is a copy from the Nome Weekly Chronicle, of October 6, 1900:

"Neck, from head to shoulders, a mass of bristling hair, sharp pointed ears, lips snarling, fangs dripping, yelping rather than barking; wolfish of aspect and not nice to look upon when in anger—this is the husky or wolf dog of the north. Much has been said of the Klondike, but these magnificent brutes, which in the beginning made that frigid El Dorado possible, have received little more than passing attention. Nor has this neglect been due to their being but humble servants of their master, man. They are far from humble, as their wild ancestry attests. They may be beaten into submission, but that will not prevent their still snarling their hatred. They may be starved into apparent docility and then die suddenly with their teeth fast locked in a brother's throat, torn to pieces by their comrade. Rather little attention has been accorded them because the interest of man has gravitated inexorably toward the natural, mineral and social features of the far northern land. The husky is far more interesting. As a type of endurance no better evolved products of natural selection need be sought. If ever a species has been born and bred of hard times, it has. Only the fittest in a struggle for existence extending through a thousand generations have survived. And they are well fit. Domesticated by the savage autocrats of that forbidding region, they can trace their ancestry direct to the wild she wolves.

"It is a northland aphorism that no man is a fit person to drive a team of huskies who cannot command the extensive adjectives and adjurations of at least two vernaculars, besides the one drunk in with his mother's milk. In fact, a dog driver is near cousin to the army teamster. A mule is cunning and may give glimmering manifestations of cunning; but the husky can be characterised as pertinacious, deceitful, sharp and above all well capable of deductive reasoning. He will unerringly connect cause with effect. He is also an actor of no mean ability, concealing the most nefarious designs under the innocent exterior of a new born lamb. In the old days before the discovery of the Klondike, the men who freighted grub from

Circle City to Birch Creek were wont to charge ten cents per pound more for bacon than for any other merchandise, and even then so great was the responsibility they reckoned they lost on the transaction. No white man out of his own brain ever successfully devised a way of tying up a husky. Rope or thong can resist their sharp teeth at the best for a few minutes. But the Indians, through generations of travail, finally worked out the only method. He ties the dog with a stick. One end of the pole is fastened so closely to the husky's neck



HUSKY DOG PUP.

that he cannot get at the thong with his teeth. The other end is made fast with another thong to a stake driven securely into the ground. Unable to free himself from this end the intervening pole prevents him from getting at the other end. It is a very common sight to see these animals breaking the ice of a water hole by rearing in the air and coming down upon it with their whole weight on their fore feet. As grub thieves they have no equals, and unvaracious Klondikers will not stop at telling of the husky which stole a can of condensed milk and

traded it off at another camp where they happened to be short of milk, for a piece of bacon. However, it is a fact that they do open condensed milk cans and extract the contents.

"In the summer time, when the snow and ice are gone, and man travels by canoe and poling boat, the huskies are thrown on their own resources. They do not work; wherefore should they be fed? Hence, they become splendid scavengers and perform prodigies of benevolence in the matter of sanitation. Nothing escapes them. Not a bone, but is cracked for its marrow; not a tin can, but shines clean and bright on the inside. They are also excellent fishers, and during the salmon run no dog goes hungry. This leaving the huskies to shift for themselves gives rise to peculiar ethics in the northland. A man who steals from another is shot down without mercy. It is different in the case of the dogs. Should a man catch one red-handed gorging his last piece of bacon, he may not shoot him. If he does the dog's owner can come down upon him for his value as a draft animal. A miners' meeting generally settled the amount. Nor is this an insignificant sum, for the prices of sleigh dogs range from one hundred to five hundred dollars, and in times of need as high as a thousand.

"They are superb travelers. Coming back light, the Circle City freighters thought nothing of making a single run of 70 to 80 miles. Fierce brutes though they be, the closest attachments often spring up between them and their masters, and when a man possesses a good dog or team, he is not slow in bragging of it. In the annals of the country may be found the history of one dog driver who wagered a thousand dollars that his favorite husky could start a thousand pounds on a level trail. Now the steel runners of a stationary sled will quickly freeze to the surface, and by the terms of the bet he was even denied the privilege of breaking the runner loose. But it was stipulated that the dog was to have three trials. The whole camp staked its dust upon one side or the other of the issue, and on the day of trial turned out en masse. The dog was hitched to the loaded sled and everything made ready. "Gee," the master commanded from a distance. The dog swung obediently to the right, shrewdly throwing his whole weight upon the traces. "Haw!" The manœuvre was duplicated to the left and the sled broke out. And then "mush on" (the vernacular for "get up"). The dog whined softly, driving his claws into the frozen trail, calling every muscle into play, digging away like mad; and in answer to the tremendous exertion the sled slowly got into motion and was dragged several lengths. Let a man try the like and marvel. Of course, it was an exceptional dog, but creatures are often measured by their extremes.

"It is in fighting that they display their most wolfish in-

stincts.. As long as two combatants are on their feet there is no interference. The onlooking huskies merely crowd interestedly around, ready, however, for the first slip; and the instant one or the other of the dogs goes down the whole band pitch upon him and in the snap of a finger he is torn to pieces. The loss of more dogs is due to this than to any or all other causes combined.

"A peculiarity they are remarkable for is their howling. It can be likened to nothing on land or sea. When frost grows bitter and the aurora borealis trails its cold fires across the skies, they voice their misery to the night. Heart-breaking sobbing, it rises like a wail of lost and tortured souls, and when a thousand huskies are in full chorus it is as though the roof had tumbled in and hell stood naked to the skies. No man can bear this for the first time and preserve the equanimity of that portion of his skin which lies contiguous to his spinal column. A certain literary gentleman, whose poems have been praised by Rossetti, by the way, but who is here nameless, journeyed into the Klondike during the fall rush of 1897. In the boat with him was his partner and their two wives. All down the Yukon they encountered the most frightful stories of the famine then raging at Dawson. Not only is the Klondiker unvarnished, but he is a clever colorist, so these gentlemen believed the lurid tales, and were prepared to fight to the last for their grub. Unluckily they approached Dawson during the night. They knew they were very near and were keeping a good lookout. Suddenly, round a bend in the Yukon, a faint wail reached them. Straining their ears, it was supplemented by other wails, for all the world like the dying agonies of women and children, and of strong men. One instant they debated. If this were the famine, as it surely was, they would certainly be torn to pieces in the mad scramble for their grub. They seized their oars in panic terror and made a wild rush for the other bank, landing at Klondike City, and even the few men they met could not convince them that it was only the nocturnal song of the husky. Nor would their wives permit the journey to continue till the gentleman whose poems had been praised by Rossetti went down on foot and made a personal investigation."

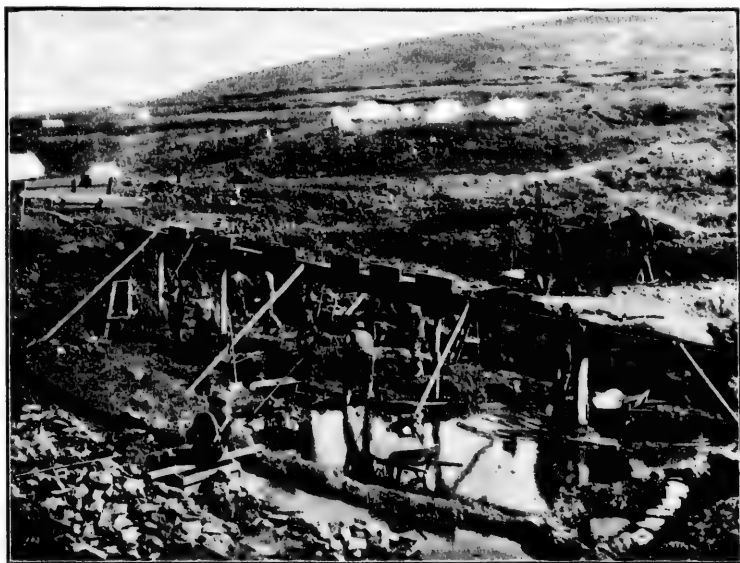


WHAT BUSINESS MEN SAY

It will be interesting to the prospective Alaska citizen, or miner, or tourist, to chat briefly about "the great country" with men whose business and interest it is to know definitely about it, and whose training has given them the habit of conservative estimates.

JAMES D. HOGE, JR., DISCUSSES ALASKA.

Nome and its general condition and future were interestingly discussed by James D. Hoge, Jr., president of the First National Bank of Seattle, after his return from that district, where he passed a fortnight. Mr. Hoge said: "Nome agreeably surprised



SLICING ON NO. 3 ABOVE ANVIL CREEK.

me. I had gone there expecting to find a much different state of affairs. Despite the fact that many of the claims have been tied up in receivership litigation and that they suffered from a severe drought, the season's output will not be less than \$3,000,000 and it may reach \$5,000,000. Next year the yield will be incomparably larger. When I left, the gold was coming into the town in large quantities. The bank in which I am interested was receiving money deposits daily and the other bank was doing correspondingly well.

"The Bluestone district, adjacent to Nome, is making a remarkable showing. The diggings are very rich. Many Nome miners were stampeding for that camp when I left. Steamer Discovery



NOME—AUGUST 1900.

and other small vessels were running to Port Clarence, the metropolis of the camp, with all the passengers they could accommodate. Good reports were also being received from the Golovin Bay district.

"An erroneous impression prevails regarding conditions at Nome. The camp is now down to a working basis. There is no great clamor on the part of the people to get out of the district. General Randall told me he was having very few applications for transportation. The steamship people realize the truth of my statement. Many of the vessels were cutting rates in order to secure passengers; but the returning crowd is about exhausted, for from what I could learn, about 10,000 people expect to pass the winter in Nome and adjacent districts. They are building cabins and making other preparations to remain another year. The surplus population has gone and the people now there are willing to mine and engage in other legitimate pursuits. You hear it said that the beach diggings are worked out. That is not so. At a conservative estimate there were 1,500 men digging gold from the Nome beach while I was there. They were taking out from \$10 to \$25 a day to the man. 'We are all making wages,' an old beach operator said to me: 'If we were not we would not be working here.'

"I saw a number of monied men in Nome seeking investments, but they told me that they could find very few claims for purchase; in fact, on the better creeks nothing was to be had. Prices for commodities had gotten down to normal figures before I left Nome. The town now boasts of a telephone system. It has water works and by this time is lighted by electricity. The Wild Goose Railway is doing a great business. It is operated for a distance of nine miles to the interior from Nome City. Its rolling stock consists of one train, an engine and four freight cars, which makes three round trips daily. Great crowds are going and coming all the time. Hundreds of tons of material and supplies are hauled out every week. The road is to be extended to Port Clarence and the Bluestone district, a distance of 80 miles."

Ex-Gov. John H. McGraw, one of Seattle's pioneers in the Alaskan mining camps, and whose success in the interior on Manook creek is well known, went to Nome for the special purpose of investigating the conditions there and of gaining first-hand knowledge of the mineral and business possibilities of the camp and vicinity. Having this special purpose in mind, the conclusions he has drawn from personal experience have an important interest. In an interview he said:

"This Nome district and adjacent country is filled with

splendid opportunities for the experienced miner and the hardy and well equipped prospector. There is no doubt that great mineral wealth exists there and such are the men who must discover and develop it, but for the inexperienced man, the speculator and the man who seeks a livelihood dependent on the earnings of the miners, it is a bad place to go."

Mr. W. B. Sleeper, a prominent cattle man of Sunrise, Wyo., returned from Nome on the "Roanoke." "Five days of rain," said Mr. Sleeper, "left Nome in a materially improved condition. Want of water has greatly retarded the development of the district, which I have no hesitation in saying is the richest



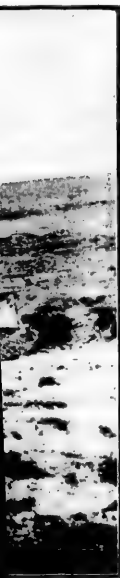
ALDER CREEK CLAIM NO. 2.

placer camp ever discovered, not excepting the Klondike. I say this in the face of the fact that I shipped a lot of cattle there and came out loser on the venture. From that standpoint I might do like some of the tenderfeet, revile the district, but I will not condemn a country which is giving up so much wealth. The gold is there, and I will return in the spring and try to get some of it. I secured a number of interests, and I am well satisfied with my trip to the country."

"Despite all evil reports to the contrary, the Cape Nome gold fields are the most wonderfully rich placer diggings known today." This is the verdict of Dr. Caleb Whitehead, the special commissioner who was sent by the United States government

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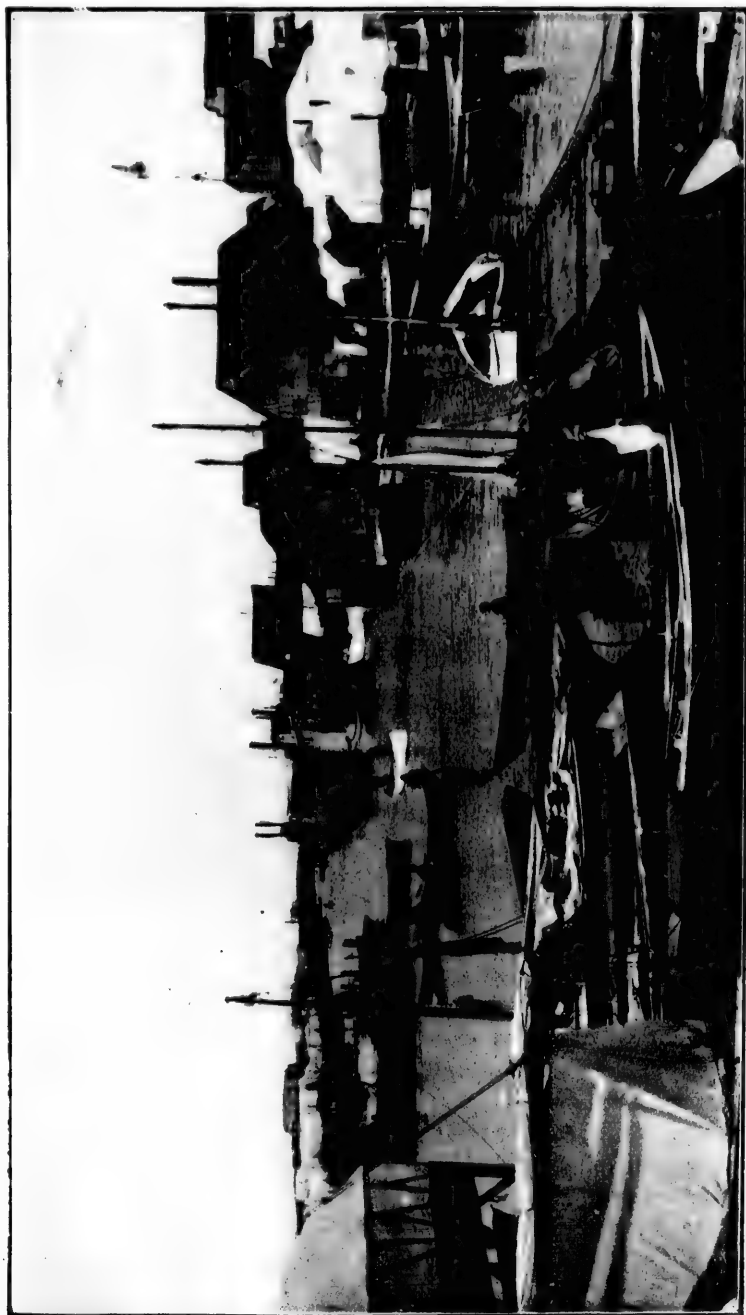
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to Alaska to examine into the gold deposits of the Seward peninsula. He has just returned to Washington and is now engaged on the compilation of his official report. It will be the most important document on Cape Nome ever made public, from a scientific point of view, and will be accepted as final by the United States in basing estimates of future productions of gold.

Dr. Whitehead is the assayer to the American mint bureau. He is recognized the world over as a metallurgist of the highest class. As an indication of his professional reputation it is necessary only to recall the fact that he was recently offered and refused \$20,000 a year to join the Turkish government as metallurgical adviser. It can be seen therefore that Dr. Whitehead's judgment on the Cape Nome district, formed after a summer spent on the ground, is of the highest value.

In an interview Dr. Whitehead gave an inkling of what his report will contain. Contrary to the rumors which had been circulated broadcast by disappointed gold hunters who came back discouraged after a day or so spent on the beach at Nome, Dr. Whitehead asserts that the value of the new finds has scarcely been dreamed of.

"Cape Nome today offers the most practical field of which I know for practical men who are willing to work," he said. "The unprospected diggings in the hills back of the beach will yield millions upon millions of dollars to the hardy men who are willing to work. Here is a sample of what has been and what will be done: Soon after I reached Nome last summer, four men were landed on the beach with nothing but a grub stake and a rocker. That was on July 4. Instead of loitering around the city in an effort to pick up bank notes off the tundra they struck out for the unprospected country and located some ground. They came back to Nome during the latter part of September with \$20,000 in gold that they had washed out with their rocker. To my knowledge they refused an offer of \$100,000 cash for their ground. That was exceptional, but it will not be exceptional when men learn to strike out for themselves and prospect fresh territory. Practical miners will continue to grow rich at a pace never equalled since the days of '49. When I say practical miners," continued the doctor, "I do not mean merely men who spend a lifetime in gold hunting. I mean, first of all, men who will work. If I were a farm boy of the States who had decided upon trying my fortune in Alaska, I should get as good an outfit as possible and then go to Nome, with the view of



SNAKE RIVER AT NOME, JULY, 1900.

spending a while in mining under the direction of some man who knew the business. Then, when I had learned how gold was found, and how it is washed out, I should strike out for myself. There are millions of acres of auriferous land back of Nome on which no white man has ever trod. Millions of dollars will be taken out of it. With the training he had acquired in working under the direction of some older miner, the young man from the farm would have a fair field in striking it rich in these new districts. If he has reasonable luck he ought to clear up \$5,000 or \$6,000 in a couple of seasons. But let me tell you now just as emphatically as I can say it, that Cape Nome is no place for a lazy man. It is work merely to keep alive in the tundra back of the beach. If you want to realize what life there means, get a pair of rubber boots and go to wading around the nearest stream where the water will reach almost to your hips. The 'sour-doughs,' the old miners who have spent a winter in the country, do not speak of prospecting. They call it 'mushing,' and the name fits the thought. You 'mush' for miles through bogs in order to reach the stream where gold may lie, and then you 'mush' around in the middle of the creek in search of pay dirt. It is work, every bit of it. But it has resulted in making some colossal fortunes, and it will make more. Nome as yet is hardly scratched," he continued. "About \$5,000,000 was produced this season. Twice that amount will come out next year. The production will steadily increase for three or four years, when it will probably reach its maximum, but the whole of the Nome diggings will not be worked out for ten or fifteen years. There are thousands of creeks as yet unprospected that will join in the production. There is gold everywhere through the country. If the Seward peninsula, about 100 by 150 miles in size, on which Nome is situated, could be sluiced as sluicing is conducted in California, I believe that the whole of it would pay profits. Now as to the origin of the fabulous gold deposits, it evidently came at one time from quartz lodes, for we occasionally get a little placer gold there with quartz still attached to it, but the lodes were cut away by the process of erosion centuries ago and no trace of them now remains. I doubt very much whether quartz mining will ever be carried on at a profit there. Many people believe that where placer gold is found the mother lode from which it came lies close at hand. This is a mistake. No one has ever yet found the lodes from which the placer gold in southern Idaho or at Helena, Mont., came. The same fruitless search will probably be carried on at Nome by green miners of more ambition than experience, but it is not important to learn

where the lodes that originally carried the gold were. The problem now is to find what became of the gold after it was carried away by erosion. It seems settled that the little creeks—Anvil and Glacier and the others from which the gold thus far has been taken—did not carry away the metal from the lodes in which it originally existed. No, I believe that the gold was originally washed down by two ancient streams running at right angles to the present creeks. The channels of those rivers are still evident. It is in them that the great reserve of placer gold now lies, buried down beneath the soil, deposited in the course of ages. The little creeks from which the gold at Nome has



STREET SCENES AT NOME, 1900

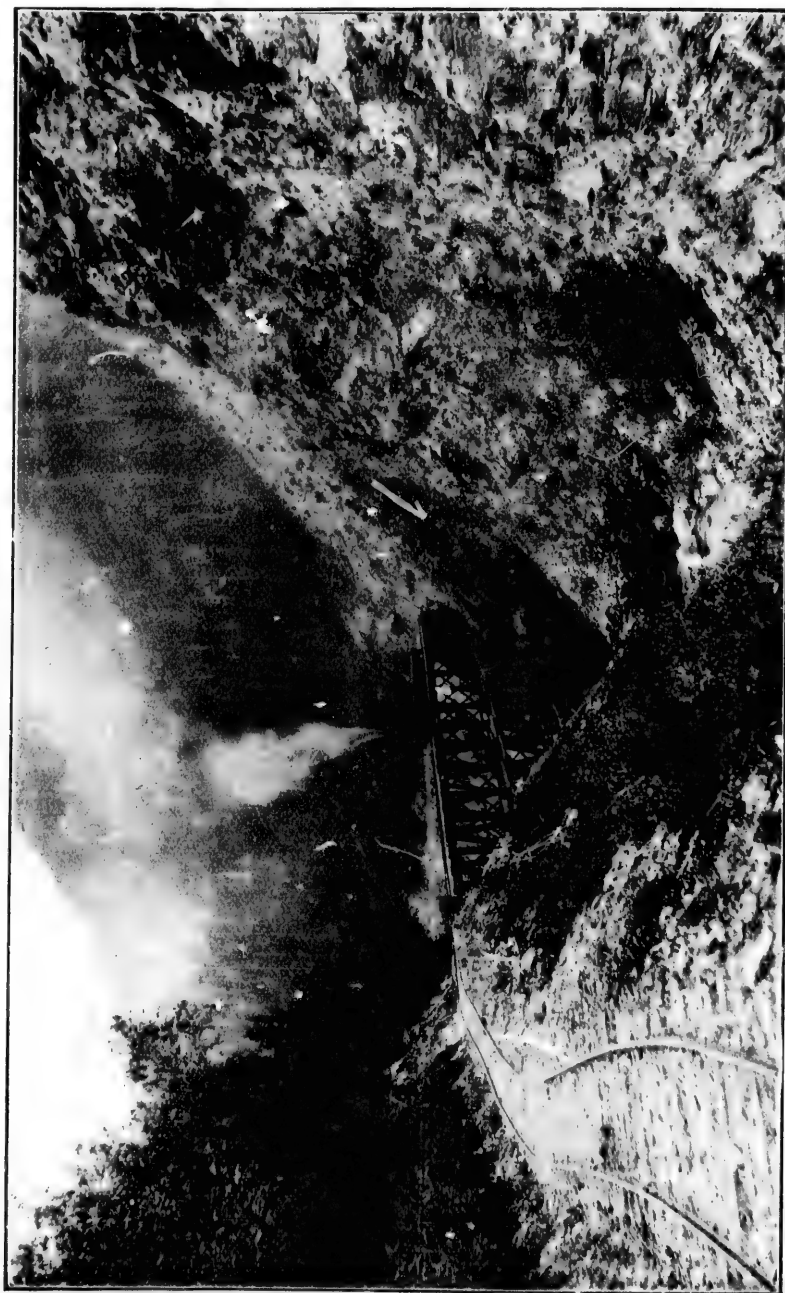
been taken crossed the old channels and have washed the precious metal down towards the sea. The question for the economic geologist is to open up the old channels and thus get at the placer reserves. The little tests that have been made along the channels show that the metal is there.

"It is a curious population in the district. All are there merely to get a fortune, and they expect to make it in two years. I do not know a man in Nome who expects to be there two years hence. Conditions of life, however, are not so severe in the little city. One can get good hotel accommodations. The winters are cold. The thermometer reaches from 50 to 60 degrees below zero, but there is seldom more than two or three feet

of snow, and the people manage to keep comfortable. With all its fabulous wealth, Nome will continue to be a poor man's camp. There will be little opportunity for the flumes and plants that mark placer mining in California, for the creeks are so shallow and the pay dirt can be worked so quickly and so easily that it will hardly pay to build them. Besides that, miners do not care to sell their claims at a price that capitalists are willing to pay. A successful miner will calculate, say, that there is \$500,000 of gold in his ground, and that it can be extracted in two years at a cost of, say, \$100,000. He sees that he practically has \$400,000 cash on hand, and he is unwilling to sell his claim at a lower figure, so there is very little opening in Nome for capital, and on that very account, coupled with the marvelous richness of the country, it offers the greatest opportunity of which I know for miners who know how to work.

"The rush to Nome last summer was an amazing thing. In three weeks 20,000 people from all parts of the universe were dumped on the beach; 4,000 fresh arrivals came in a single day. Most of them expected to commence work upon the seashore and dig out wealth at once. Of course they were sadly disappointed. The gold in the beach sands was merely the amount that had been washed down by the creeks. A million and a half in fine gold was taken from the sand early in the history of the camp, and that exhausted the total supply in the beach at Nome. The 'chechacos,' the tenderfeet, put a shovel or so in the beach, found nothing and came back by the next steamer in disgust. Those who remained and prospected made money. Those who continue to prospect will make more money. The development of Nome has just commenced. I look for the district to support 40,000 people next summer. That is more than were there even at the height of the boom during any time in the past season, but the country just around Nome is not the only district in which gold lies. The yellow metal is found all over Alaska. It is embedded in the frozen gravel even north of the Arctic circle. No one knows yet how many millions of dollars will be found in the new territory."

Among the recent arrivals in Seattle of those whose observation of facts and events makes their utterances valuable, is Mr. Walter E. Clark, who represented the New York Sun at Nome, and who is also the assistant correspondent of the Sun at the National Capital. Mr. Clark was sent north early last spring, leaving Seattle on the revenue cutter "Bear," and landing on the Nome beach June 5, before the rush had set in. He



FIRST TRESTLE, N. A. T. & T. CO. R. R. TO CLIFF CREEK COAL MINES.



FIRST TRETTLE, N. A. T. & T. CO. R. R., TO CLIFF CREEK COAL MINES.

visited all the creeks and adjacent districts to Nome and was able to reach conservative opinions as to results, present and prospective. In speaking of his experiences and observations, Mr. Clark said:

"The grain of truth about the future possibilities of the Nome region as a rich gold-producing region is gradually being sifted out of the mass of chaff brought out by the army of disgruntled gold seekers, and with the close of the season reports are being brought by conservative parties to the effect that the Nome region and all its districts north and south for several hundred miles are rich with gold and will in the course of time develop many prominent camps, the aggregate of whose output will rival the best season of the Klondike region.

"I have seen nothing while up there to justify the many evil reports sent out about the utter failure of the Nome region as a gold-bearing district. On the contrary, I saw plenty to convince me that Nome will yet prove a very rich producing district after it has gone through the experiences that make up the preface to the history of every mining camp. Nome was in a measure a repetition of the Klondike stampede of '97 and '98, and you will remember that of the 50,000 men who fairly swamped the Yukon country at that time every one of the 40,000 odd who failed to make anything there returned and insisted that the Yukon country was a failure, and that the gold was confined to one or two creeks. We all know that the Yukon country has since then produced something like \$50,000,000 and that new strikes are being constantly made, which promise to keep that camp alive from a placer standpoint for another half century. Nome will certainly prove to be the same. The dissatisfied ones ran away from the camp, some without even landing at Nome, and said there was no gold there, and that the district was a frost, whereas the truth of the matter is that from all the figures I could gather of the present season's output the sum will reach close to \$4,000,000. This, when you consider the many claims in litigation and lying idle, and the general chaotic condition of affairs in that camp, you must admit is a very good showing. I think well of the country, and feel satisfied that it has a great future. I will admit that late in July matters around Nome looked black, and the general cry was that unless some new strikes were made everything would go to the 'demnition bow-wows' and that the camp would be dead next year. Up to that time the only important strike that had been made was on the Topkuk and

about sixty miles south of Nome, and that had been made before the opening of navigation. Of course, I knew that Anvil was rich and Dexter and Snow Gulch were good, but conditions were not favorable. Everything was affected by the drought, and it was not until the rains about August 1 that a change for the better set in. About that time, too, the Casa de Pogra district was heard from—not wonderful, but encouraging—and a little later the Bluestone district, in the Port Clarence region, gave good promise, and this last has since turned out to be the most important strike made this year. The Topkuk district is also important, with good quartz indications, but it is limited



Ptarmigan Hunting. The result of two hours shooting on the Tundra near Nome.

in extent and the beach was soon washed out; but the Bluestone region is extensive and promises to furnish work for a large army of men. The Kougarok region, near the Bluestone, has also shown encouraging results. By another year, however, affairs will no doubt be in good condition and the real work of prospecting and developing will commence in earnest. That country is large and the gold-bearing belt is wide enough and rich enough to furnish work for a good sized army of practical miners. This class of prospectors has been woefully lacking up there. Take it all in all, Nome is a good country and will be heard from next year as a promisingly rich camp."

NOME FOR QUICK RICHES

The following appeared in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer of January 8, 1901:

"Arthur J. McArthur tells of the advantages of the district over those of the Klondike. He is one of the heaviest mining operators in that section and Nome and arrived in the city yesterday from Butte, Montana, his home. He is making preparations for the development of his Nome claims next season on an extensive scale. Mr. McArthur has lived for twelve years in Alaska and on the British Yukon. He is regarded as one of the best posted men in his line in the north. 'Without any intention of speaking disparagingly of the Klondike, which, as every one knows, is a remarkably rich camp,' Mr. McArthur said, 'Nome excels it in the matter of gold production. The district is great in extent and easy of access; better still, the diggings are shallow. One gets quick results. The treasure is found all the way from the grass roots to bedrock at an average depth of seven or eight feet. It is not a case of prolonged development before satisfactory results are obtained. The gold is to be had near the surface. Bluestone and Kougarak are two of the most promising of the many Nome camps. I do not own a claim in either district, so it can not be charged that I speak from anything but a disinterested standpoint. My holdings are in the Nome district proper. I am well satisfied with them, and expect to return to Nome with the opening of navigation.'"

THE CAMP PHENOMENALLY RICH.

Samuel Goldman, of Portland, is enthusiastic over Nome. He is the owner of a rich bench claim opposite No. 9 Anvil. Mr. Goldman says:

"I cannot see how any one can say Nome is not a good country. The camp is phenomenally rich. Time will prove it. The 'black-eye' which the 'tenderfeet' are trying to give the camp will not hurt it. These men had no business there in the first place and the quicker they leave the better." Mr. Goldman is going back to Nome.

ROMANCE AND HISTORY

Sturdy Old Baranoff, the Viceroy of Russian Alaska.

With all of its later-day matter-of-fact gold-getting energy and development, there was a time when Alaska was literally the home of romance. As we all know, it was first settled by the Russians, who attached to it the great frozen zone belonging to the Czar.

These men were very much like the old Norse, sea-going Vikings, now almost relegated to fable and fireside stories. They partook, too, of many of the characteristics of the old Spanish grandees of the days of Cortez and Pizarro, bold, hardy, unfeeling and absolutely relentless in prosecuting a campaign once entered upon. Their treatment of the native Esquimaux and the Aleuts, as peace-loving a people as ever lived, closely resembled that of Pizarro in Peru, or Cortez in Mexico, cruel and treacherous.

Standing out boldly among these hardy bands whose names still cling to settlements, towns, lakes and rivers, was the man whom Washington Irving describes in *Astoria* as a "rough, rugged, hospitable, hard-drinking old Russian; somewhat of a soldier, somewhat of a trader, above all a boon companion of the old roystering school, with a strong cross of the bear"—Alexander Baranoff, the conquerer of Alaska.

Baranoff was born in Kargopol, Eastern Russia, in 1741, and at an early age began life as a retail clerk at Moscow. From 1771 till 1780 we find him established in an unprofitable business of his own. In 1870 he is managing a glass factory at Irkutsk, Siberia. In 1789 he is traveling about selling goods, principally liquors, to the natives of Kamchatka, by whom he was robbed and rendered bankrupt.

After his Kamchatka adventure Baranoff was willing to isolate himself from his wife and children, whom he left at his home in Kargopol and never saw again, for the sake of what he has previously regarded as an importunate offer of his friend Shelikoff, for him to become chief manager of the Russian-American Fur Company's business in Alaska.

On the tenth of August, 1790, Baranoff sailed from Okhotsk in the ill-fated ship *Trekh Sviatitsh*, for a land that would not

but for the energy and perseverance of this indomitable man have been settled by civilized man until the nineteenth century was well on its way. His first landing in his new home was upon an island, uninhabited by white men, in the lifeboats of his wrecked ship. Here, in a hut constructed from the debris that



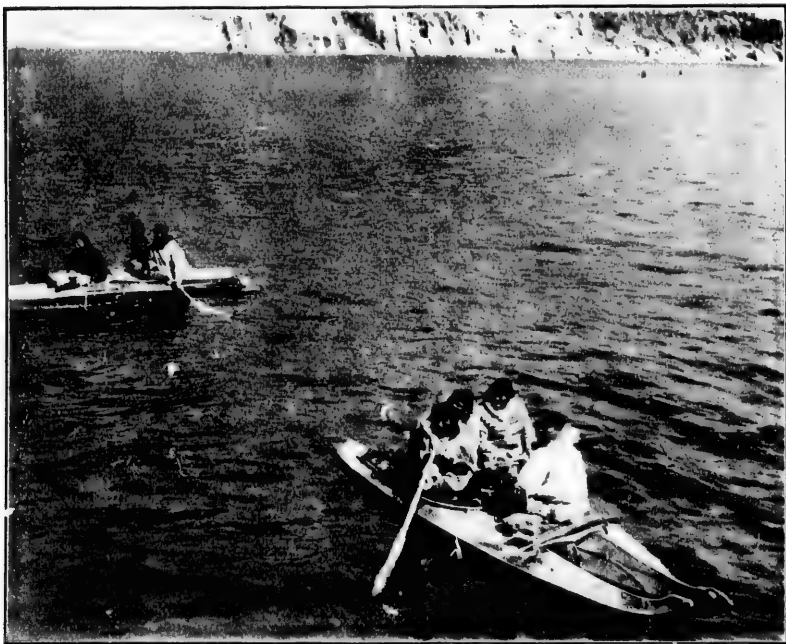
ESKIMO FAMILY.

had been washed ashore from the wrecked vessel, his first winter in America was spent; he and his fifty-two men subsisting upon the few edible roots that could be found, and the meat of seal, sea lion and the carcass of a whale that had fortunately been washed ashore.

When spring at last arrived the sagacious old leader was

prepared with three large umiaks in which to push on to Kadiak, over 500 miles to the eastward. At Kadiak he found a good man in command of an unruly band of criminals and the country being drained by unscrupulous traders of its most valuable staple—furs. The resolution with which Baranoff met this state of affairs is best told in his own words:

"My first steps into these regions were attended with misfortune, but perhaps I shall be permitted to conquer in the end. I will either vanquish a cruel fate or fall under its repeated



Esquimes in Kyacks (strapped together) coming out from shore to meet steamer.

blows. Want and hardship I can bear with patience, especially when the sacrifice is made for the sake of pure friendship."

In 1792 he traveled 600 miles to Prince William Sound to become better acquainted with the natives and to make treaties with them. It was on this trip, while he was encamped near the mouth of the Copper River, that a large party of natives crept up on a black and stormy night to within ten paces of the Russian sentries and opened an attack that would have ended disastrously had it not been for grim old Baranoff fighting and directing his men out there in the darkness in his

night attire. As it was, one Russian was killed and twelve savages were found lying cold upon the beach next morning.

The next few years were spent by the manager on the Aleutian peninsula in establishing his company more firmly and in trading with the natives and pacifying them.

In the spring of 1799 Baranoff set out from Kadiak with two vessels and a fleet of 200 bidarkas to establish a settlement on Norfolk Sound. While rounding Cape Suckling a gale came up and thirty of his bidarkas, containing sixty men, were swamped. As darkness was coming on and the storm had not abated, Baranoff set out with the bidarkas to effect an encamp-

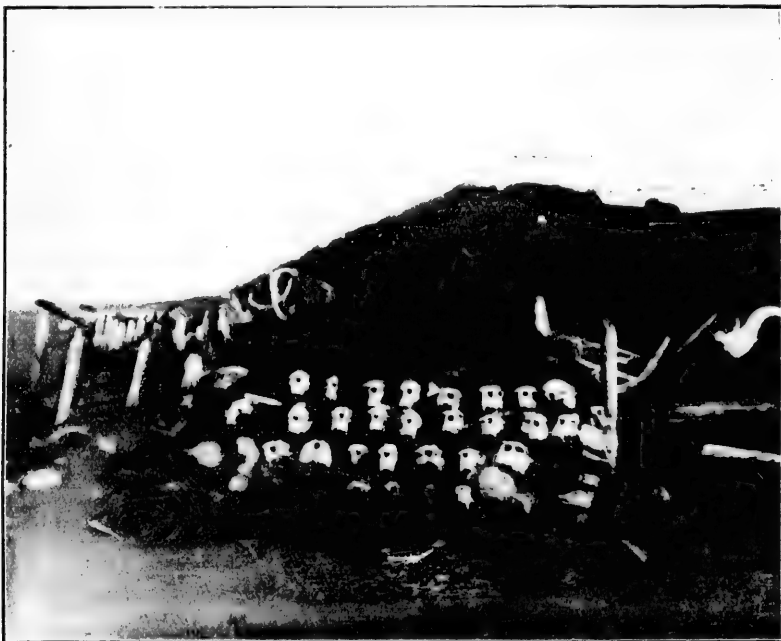


A GROUP OF NORTHERN NATIVES AND THEIR SUMMER HOMES

ment on the beach. They had scarcely landed, however, before the war cry of the Thlinkets rang through the night, and Bananoff and the two Russians that he had taken ashore with him awoke to find themselves surrounded and consternation reigning among their Aleutian followers. Under cover of darkness the Russians collected their party and made their way back to their vessel, but not until thirty of the Aleuts and thirteen bidarkas had fallen into the hands of the savage enemy. Undismayed at these fearful disasters, the valiant commander scorned the counsel of his officers and pushed on to the accomplishment of his undertaking. On the 25th of May he had reached Norfolk Sound and his unique fleet was anchored in

Kattlaansky Bay, and in a short time Fort St. Michael was erected. In 1800 Baranoff left the new fort in command of Vassila Malakhoff and returned to Kadiak, only to have the news reach him in the spring that Fort St. Michael had been burned to the ground and the garrison butchered by the treacherous Kalosh.

Upon hearing of the disaster that had overtaken his people at St. Michael the governor immediately set out to avenge the fate of his countrymen and re-establish his post. He, however, got no further than Yakutat and then returned to Kadiak, where



Eskimo's Barabara (winter house) surrounded by Walrus Skulls.

he spent the winter, going on to Norfolk Sound the following year with a larger fleet than before. Upon his arrival on the 19th of September, he found the Indians strongly barricaded at the mouth of what has since been called Indian River. The Russians at once attacked this fort and received a disastrous repulse. But as the ships had secured a better firing position, the Indians opened negotiations for peace. It was while these negotiations were being carried on that the Russians awoke one morning to find the Indian fort vacated by all of its inmates excepting two white renegades, two old squaws and a child. It was upon this occasion that the Indians, fearing detection,

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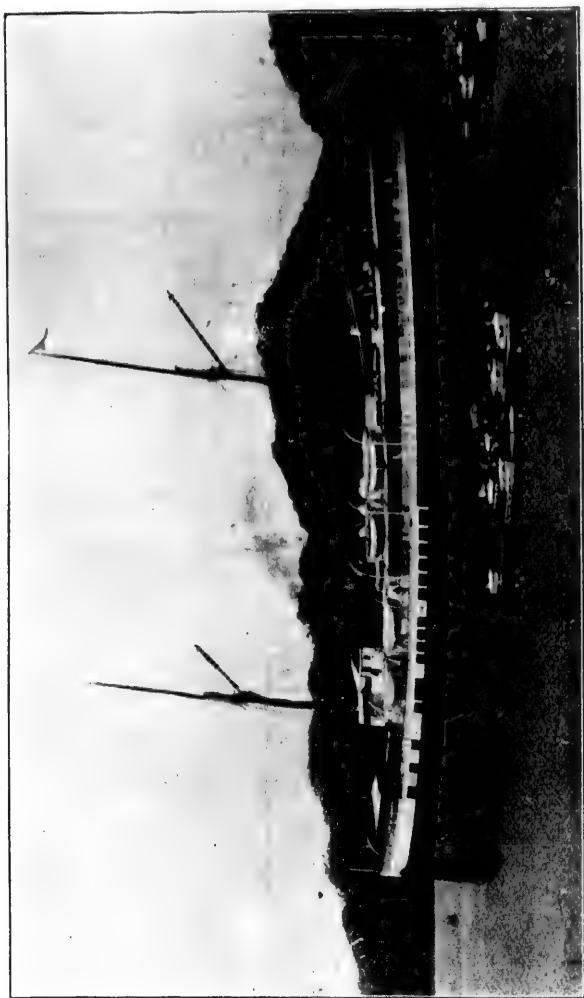
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silenced their dogs and young children by cutting their throats. Baranoff then attacked the Indian stronghold on the subsequent site of the famous Baranoff castle, which he succeeded in capturing after a siege lasting two days.

Having thus disposed of the Indians, he proceeded with the erection of a new fort on the site that has since been Alaska's capital, and here the old veteran spent the next thirteen years of his life—trading with the Boston and St. George men and bartering with the Indians, who would come from afar to see the paleface whose name was known and respected from California to the Arctic Ocean; they would come expecting to meet, a big, bluff, heavy-bearded man like the other Russians, but instead would find a little, sallow-complexioned man with a fringe of reddish hair surrounding a bald crown, to which a wig was tied with a black handkerchief.

In 1819 Baranoff set sail for his beloved Russia, but never lived to see again his homeland and his family, his body being buried beneath the waters of the Indian Ocean, from the side of the Kutusof, on April 17, 1819.

And this is the man who, when a band of idle missionaries were loitering about, a drudge upon the colonists, would take the responsibility of compelling them to aid in supporting the colony; who, when rival companies of his own countrymen were arrayed one against another in armed conflict, dared to declare himself the representative of the Czar and confiscate the property of his outlaw rivals for his own company; who could succeed in building a good ship when, in the absence of saws, the planks had to be hewed from logs and the necessary iron collected in small bits from the different settlements; who would pension the widows of men who had died in the colonies, at his own expense; who, that his men might be better housed, would live in a shack with a leaky roof, and with cracks in the walls through which the wind would come from the four points. This is the man whom Robert Greenhaw characterized in 1840 as "a bold, shrewd, enterprising and unfeeling man, under whose iron rule the affairs of the company prospered and its stock rose proportionately in value; whose proceedings were, therefore, always approved by those to whom he was accountable, and complaints against whose tyranny were always disregarded."



STEAMER "ROANOKE"
The Famous Treasure Ship as she appeared at Nagasaki, Japan, while a Government Transport.

LAWS FOR ALASKA

It is essential that every man who attempts to mine in Alaska should be familiar with the mining laws of the country, and for the convenience of those who contemplate going into the mining field for the first time we present the laws, so far as they will apply in all common cases:

Congress seems inclined to deal very liberally with Alaskan matters, especially as regards mining; that is, if the opinions expressed by various public men have any weight. Senators and representatives, regardless of party, are gravely and keenly alive to the importance of broad yet careful legislation for the territory. Such measures as are passed will be along lines giving the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people. It seems almost certain that the power of attorney law, which has been the cause of much discontent, especially at Nome, will be repealed or amended in such a way as to make violation of it impossible. What has already been done in the way of abusing this law must be unraveled by the courts. Congress can not pass retroactive law.

As regards the beach claims, it is not easy to predict just what Congress will do. Several bills have been introduced treating with this most vital question, but up to the issuance of this booklet none have become laws. Otherwise, the general mining laws of the United States apply to Alaska. (See Sec. 26, Title I, Chapter I, Alaska, approved June 6, 1900).

PLACER CLAIMS.

Claims usually called "placers" are subject to entry and patent under United States mining law. No single individual can locate more than twenty acres of placer land, and no location by an association of persons can exceed one hundred and sixty acres. These are the maximum amounts which can be located, by a person or association, but smaller areas can be located, and this has been done in several cases in Alaska where there is not sufficient ground to allot full sized claims. The price per acre of placer claims is \$2.50.

When a placer contains veins or lodes, the cost per acre for such included vein or lode, with twenty-five feet on each side thereof is \$5.00 per acre, the remainder, the ordinary price for placer land. If the claim be all placer ground, the fact must

be stated in the application and corroborated by accompanying proofs. If of mixed placers and lodes, it should be set out with a description of all known lodes, separately, situated within the boundaries of the claim. A specific declaration as to each lode intended to be claimed must be made, any other lode known to exist within the limits of such placer claim, and not covered by such declaration, is by the silence of the applicant excluded by law from all claimed by him of whatsoever nature, possessory or otherwise.

When a new district is discovered, miners may select a recorder of claims, providing no regular government official, authorized to perform such duties, is within convenient distance. All locations must be distinctly marked on the ground, and the official survey thereof is required to be identical with or within the lines of the recorded location.

LODE CLAIMS.

A lode location may contain an area of twenty and sixty-six hundredths acres. It may be fifteen hundred feet in length and six hundred feet in width, but no more. The end lines of a location must be parallel. The location must be distinctly marked on the ground. The official survey of same is required to be identical with or within the lines of location. The price for a lode claim is \$5.00 per acre.

PLACER CLAIMS.

Section 2329. Claims usually called "placers," including all forms of deposit, excepting veins of quartz, or other rock in place, shall be subject to entry and patent, under like circumstances and conditions, and upon similar proceedings, as are provided for vein or lode claims; but where the lands have been previously surveyed by the United States, the entry in its exterior limits shall conform to the legal sub-divisions of the public lands.

United States Law.—Section 2330. Legal sub-divisions of forty acres may be sub-divided into ten-acre tracts; and two or more persons, or associations of persons, having contiguous claims of any size, although such claims may be less than ten acres each, may take joint entry thereof; but no location of a placer claim, made after the ninth day of July, eighteen hundred and seventy, shall exceed one hundred and sixty acres for any person, or association of persons, which location shall conform to the United States surveys; and nothing in this section contained shall defeat or impair any bona fide pre-emption

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or homestead claims upon agricultural lands, or authorize the sale of improvements of any bona fide settler to any purchaser.

Section 2331. Where placer claims are upon surveyed lands, and conform to legal subdivisions, no further survey or plat shall be required, and all placer mining claims located after the tenth of May, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, shall conform as near as practicable with the United States system of public land surveys, and no such location shall include more than twenty acres for each individual claimant; but where placer claims can not be conformed to legal sub-divisions, survey and plat shall be made as on unsurveyed lands; and where by the segregation of mineral lands in any legal sub-divisions a quantity of agricultural land less than forty acres remains, such fractional portions of agricultural lands may be entered by any party qualified by law, for homestead or pre-emption purposes.

PLACER CLAIMS CONTAINING LODES.

United States Law.—Section 2333. Where the same person, association or corporation, is in possession of a placer claim, and also a vein or lode included within the boundaries thereof, application shall be made for a patent for the placer claim, with the statement that it includes such vein or lode, and in such case a patent shall issue for a placer claim, subject to the provisions of this chapter, including such vein or lode, upon the payment of \$5.00 per acre for such vein or lode claim, and twenty-five feet of surface on each side thereof. The remainder of the placer claim, or any placer claim not embracing any vein or lode claim, shall be paid at the rate of \$2.50 per acre, together with all costs of proceedings; and where a vein or lode, such as is described in section 2320, is known to exist within the boundaries of a placer claim, an application for a patent, for such placer claim which does not include an application for the vein or lode claim shall be construed as a conclusive declaration that the claimant of the placer claim has no right of possession of the vein or lode claim; but where the existence of a vein or lode in a placer claim is not known, a patent for the placer claim shall convey all valuable mineral and other deposits within the boundaries thereof.

United States Law.—Section 2332. Where such person, or association, they and their grantors, have held and worked their claims for a period equal to the time prescribed by the statute of limitations for mining claims of the state or territory where the same may be situated, evidence of such possession and the working of the claims for such period shall be sufficient to es-

tablish a right to a patent thereto under this chapter, in the absence of any adverse claim; but nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to impair any lien which may have attached in any way whatever to any mining claim, or property thereto attached prior to the issuance of a patent.

United States Law.—Section 2321. Proof of citizenship, under this chapter, may consist in the case of an individual, of his own affidavit thereof; in the case of an association of persons unincorporated, of the affidavit of their authorized agent made on his own knowledge, or upon information and belief, and in the case of a corporation organized under the laws of the United States, or of any state or territory thereof, by the filing of a certified copy of their charter or certificate of incorporation.

FORM 1—DISCOVERY NOTICE.

The lode, discovered by.....
190 claim feet and feet
from discovery.

The above form may be used by prospectors who can not at the time of discovery run the lines, and definitely describe the location; within a reasonable time (thirty days), the lines should be surveyed or definitely located, and a new location notice posted. (See form below.)

FORM 2—NOTICE OF LOCATION.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, having complied with the requirements of chapter 6, title 32, Revised Statutes of the United States, and the local customs, laws and regulations, has located linear feet on the lode, situated in mining district, in County, State of; described as follows:

Discovered Located
....., Locator.

Care must be taken to describe the claim accurately by reference to natural objects, such as mountains or spurs, and the boundaries must be also distinctly marked on the ground to show the extent and location of the claim, being suitable monuments. Should be as nearly as practicable as the following diagram:

FORM 3—LOCATION CERTIFICATE—LODE CLAIM.

Know all men by these presents, that I, ...
.....of the County of....., State
of.....,claim by right of discovery and loca-
tion.....feet, linear and horizontal measurement on

the.....lode, along the vein thereof, with all its dips, variations and angles; together with.....feet in width on each side of the middle of said vein at the surface, and all veins, lodes, ledges, deposits and surface ground within the lines of said claim; feet on said lode running from the center of the discovery shaft, and.....feet, running.....from said center of discovery shaft.

Said claim is situated in the.....of in.....mining district, County of, State of....., and bounded and described as follows:

Date of discovery, ..., 190... Staked and located, ..., 190... Date of certificate,....., 190...

Attest.....

As a part of this form, and in addition to the data therein given, the claimant is required to state the names of adjoining claims, and if none adjoin, the relative position of those nearest, or show by affidavit or otherwise why this is not done. This is an essential requirement.

This notice must be recorded in the office of the mining recorder and in the office of the auditor of the county in which the claim is situate.

FORM 10.—APPLICATION FOR PATENT.

....., County of....., ss.

Application for patent for the..... mining claim.

To the Register and Receiver of the United States Land Office at, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says, that in virtue of a compliance with the mining rules, regulations and customs, by himself, the said..... and his co-claimants (residence of each should be stated)..... applicants for patent herein, ha..... become owner of and in the actual, quiet and undisturbed possession of..... linear feet of the vein, lode or deposit, bearing....., together with surface ground feet in width, for the convenient working thereof, as allowed by local rules and customs of miners; said mineral claim, vein, lode or deposit and surface ground being situated in the mining district, county of..... and of..... and being more particularly set forth and described in the official field notes of survey thereof,

hereto attached, dated day of.....A. D. 190.,
....., and in the official plat of said survey, now posted
conspicuously upon said mining claim or premises, a copy of
which is filed herewith. Deponent further states that the facts
relative to the right of possession of himself (and his said co-
claimants hereinbefore named) to said mining claim, vein, lode
or deposit and surface ground, so surveyed and platted, are sub-
stantially as follows, to-wit:

(Trace the history of the lode fully.) Which will more
fully appear by reference to the copy of the original record of
location and the abstract of title hereto attached and made a
part of this affidavit; the value of the labor done and improve-
ments made upon said.....claim, by himself and his
grantors, being to the sum of \$500.00, and said improvements
consist of (describe fully). In consideration of which facts, and
in conformity with the provisions of chapter 6 of title 32 of the
Revised Statutes of the United States, application is hereby
made for and in behalf of said for a patent from
the government of the United States for the said
mining claim, vein, lode, deposit and the surface ground so
officially surveyed and platted.

.....
Subscribed to and sworn to before me this day
of A. D., 190.. and I hereby certify that I con-
sider the above deponent a credible and reliable person, and
that the foregoing affidavit, to which was attached the field
notes of survey of the mining claim, was read and
examined by him before his signature was affixed thereto and the
oath made by him.

(Official Signature.)

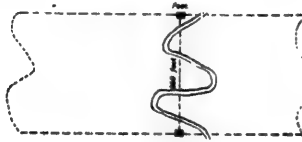
Note.—The above is slightly changed in applying for placer
mines.

CANADIAN CUSTOMS LAWS

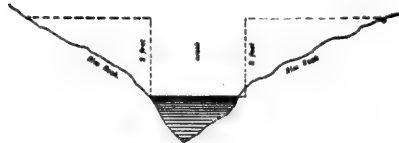
The Canadian government passes, free of duty, wearing
apparel, articles of personal adornment, toilet articles and
similar personal effects as travelers' baggage for use of persons
for immediate purposes of the journey; the duty on American
goods averages about 30 per cent., and, so far as known at
present, it is not thought there will be any change in the customs
laws this year. It should be borne in mind, however, that nearly
all supplies come from United States points

CANADIAN MINING CLAIMS

DIAGRAM No. 1.
PLAN OF CREEK OR GULCH CLAIM.



SECTIONAL PLAN OF A CREEK CLAIM.



SECTIONAL PLAN OF A GULCH CLAIM.



DIAGRAM No. 2.
PLAN SHEWING SIDE BOUNDARIES LESS THAN
100 FEET -PART

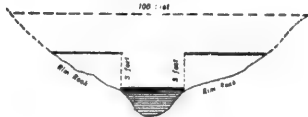


DIAGRAM No. 3.
SECTIONAL PLAN OF A RIVER CLAIM

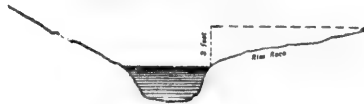
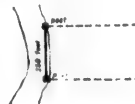


DIAGRAM No. 4.
SHOWING HOW CLAIMS ARE TO BE STAKED
PLAN OF A CREEK OR GULCH CLAIM



PLAN OF A RIVER CLAIM



MINING IN SIBERIA

The recent discoveries of gold in Alaska and the great influx of people there have caused the restless and roving who have not done as well as their neighbors, to look beyond to something distant that might give them the fortune they sought. Naturally they looked over to Siberia, and it occurred to them to remember that for generations the Czar has been working his convicts in the gold mines there, and therefore there must be gold. They then sought information concerning the terms under which foreigners might prospect in Siberia, and many parties were organized to cross Bering Straits into the benighted land of the Czar.

The supposition that foreigners can locate and hold placer claims in Siberia under similar conditions as in American territory is erroneous. What they are permitted to do is to lease placer lands on the northwest coast of the sea of Okhotsk, upon condition that they fully comply with ironclad rules and conditions, set down by the Russian government. This will prove disappointing to many American gold seekers who intended prospecting the shore of Siberia next summer, it being thought that the gold belt running through the Nome country would be found again in Russian territory.

In consequence of the information existing as to the occurrence of gold on the shore of the sea of Okhotsk, the ministry of agriculture and state domains, in accordance with the statute of the committee of the Siberial Railway, which received the imperial sanction on May 13, 1895, organized a special expedition to investigate the auriferousness of the shores of the sea of Okhotsk, on the coast of Kamchatka and of the Shantar Islands, where, in case of the discovery of valuable gold deposits, their development by private enterprise might be expected.

This expedition, after three years' solid exploration work, reported the presence of gold in large quantities, and made many recommendations, which were adopted by the government.

CONDITIONS.

Following this exploration, the government announced that it would lease the placer domain described in the report, under the following conditions:

The gold-bearing lands of the northwest shore of the

sea of Okhotsk, situated in the basins of the tributary rivers of this sea, which are (1) the Aldama and the Oui, (2) the Lantar, (3) the Moute, (4) the Nemout, (5) the Kyran, (6) the Yana, are to be leased for the extraction of gold and accompanying metals, for a period of fifteen years by means of public auction. Each basin forms a separate section, except those of the Aldama and Oui, which will be taken together. The preference will be given to the contracting party who shall offer the highest royalty per pood of gold extracted.

Declaration of participation will be received from all persons having, according to the laws in force, the right to engage in gold mining in Siberia, whether Russian subjects or foreign individuals, associations, companies or joint stock societies, on condition that they present (1) a guarantee of 100,000 rubles (\$51,500), and (2) information regarding the capital to be used for the development of the gold lands in the basin in question. This information must be recognized as correct and the capital as sufficient by the minister of finance, in accordance with the minister of agriculture. Companies and associations are required, beside, to present the statutes by which they are governed; joint stock societies must be formed in compliance with the statutes governing the same. The requests for approbation of these statutes should be addressed to the minister of finance, who, in accord with the minister of agriculture, causes them to follow the prescribed course.

In the event of the grantee refusing to conclude the contract, the security of 100,000 rubles (\$51,500) will be confiscated by the treasury.

The auctions will be held at the office of the Board of Mines (Ministry of Agriculture and of Domains). The bids presented, in writing, folded and sealed, must specify (a) the name of the bidder or of the firm, (b) the residence or office of the firm, (c) the name of the basin of which the bidder desires to obtain the grant, (d) the royalty offered for a pood of gold extracted. The envelope of the sealed paper containing the bid must have (a) the name of the person sending, (b) the name of the basin designated in the bid. A bid can refer to only one of the six sections designated above.

GUARANTY TO BE MADE.

In order to insure the execution of the obligations of the grantee 30,000 rubles (\$15,150) of the guaranty deposited on the day of the auction will be retained and placed in the treasury to

the account of the department of mines. The guaranty of 100,000 rubles (\$51,500) must be sent in by the bidder separately from the application, in cash, government bonds, or the securities of private companies guaranteed by the Russian government. In the case of applications through the post, the deposit must be sent in a separate packet.

In the event of several bidders offering equally good terms for one and the same system, the choice between them will be made by lot, in virtue of article 501 of the mining code.

On the final allotment of all the systems among the applicants, each one of them who has obtained a lot must, within a month after receiving notification thereof, make a contract with the minister of agriculture and state domains, which must contain the following conditions binding on both parties:

Section 1. During the term of fifteen years from the day of signing the contract, the lessee is allowed the sole right of prospecting and working gold in the whole system of the river, falling into the sea of Okhotsh; with the right of using the timber, in accordance with article 514 of the mining code, and all the reindeer fodder and pasturage situated within the limits of the locality bounded by The use of the reindeer fodder and pasturages situated in the said lot must be open to the reindeer of the local inhabitants at all times, and to the reindeer of lessees of other systems, during the passage through the lot.

Beyond the said exclusive right of prospecting and working the auriferous deposits in the system of the said river (Section 1), and the said restricted right of pasturage in the locality in question, the lessee is allowed no other rights in regard to carrying on in these localities any other operations or methods of exploitation whatever. He must not hinder the local inhabitants in their occupations of hunting and trapping in any of the localities stated, or in their fishing, either on the river itself, with all its tributaries, or along the shores of the sea of Okhotsh. Lessees of other systems have the right to use the bay at the mouth of the said river for unloading and warehousing their stores.

UNDER GENERAL REGULATIONS.

After the lessee has received the surveys and documents for his mines, the latter become subject to the general regulations, alike already published and such as hereafter may be made, concerning gold mining operations on crown lands, paying all the established taxes and dues on this industry to the crown.

As security for the fulfillment of the duties set down in the preceding paragraphs, a sum of 30,000 rubles (\$15,150) will be retained from the deposit made by the lessee on the day of the auction, which amount will be placed in the general treasury as a deposit of the mining department. In the event of the non-fulfillment by the lessee of the stipulation laid down in paragraph 3 and remark 1 thereto of these conditions, for the completion of the preliminary prospecting of the lot in the course of three years (paragraph 4), the contract shall be considered to be broken, and the whole original deposit (30,000 rubles) is forfeited to the crown. Should the lessee fail to pay in at the beginning of the year the sum indicated in the same paragraph 3 for the maintenance of the physician, police and personnel of the government inspection, the minister of agriculture and state domain will have the right to retain from the deposit, on behalf of the crown, the necessary sums, while the lessee is bound to make good the deposit to the above-mentioned full amount; failure to observe this condition within six months from the day when the deductions were made from the deposit deprives the lessee of the right to the continuation of the lease, and the remainder of the deposit is forfeited to the crown. On the expiration of fifteen years, as also in the case of the lessee waiving the further lease of the locality allotted him, after giving due notice thereof a year in advance, the deposit will be returned to its owner in full, while to the property of the lessee waiving his lease will be applied article 322 of the mining code.

The lessee has not the right to give notice of his waiving the lease before the expiration of three years (section 3) from the day of signing the contract.

The lessee has the right, each time, with the authorization of the minister of finance in conjunction with the minister of agriculture and state domains, to invite partners in the operations of prospecting and working the gold in the locality assigned him, as also to form with this object societies and companies, or to transfer his rights to another person, without, however, dividing, in the latter case, the system leased into smaller lots.

In all matters not specified in the present conditions, the lessee is subject to the general mining laws concerning the gold mining industry in the empire in general, and that in the maritime territory in particular.

GENESIS OF SIBERIAN PLACERS.

The most interesting report in connection with the Siberian placer mines is incorporated in the following which shows the geology and mining history of the country. This report indicates that the territory is a large one, but has never been systematically prospected, although reports so far made indicate that there are large deposits of gold awaiting development:

"Washington, August 23, 1900: Commercial Agent Greener, who represents the United States at Vladivostok, sends to the State Department a translation from a recently published book by Baron De Bats, giving some interesting and valuable information about the gold-bearing strata, climate, etc., of Siberia, from which the following is taken:

"The Siberian placers are situated on the north and north-east of a great mountainous plateau. This vast plain, intersected by the important rivers Wenga, Angara, Yeneisi, nearly 3,000 miles long; the Ob, over 2,600 miles; the Lena, more than 2,000 miles, and the Amur, 2,600 miles, still shows traces of great glacial activity. The origin of the Siberian placers, judging from researches made in other parts of the world, the United States, Australia and Europe, may be accounted for as follows: The Silurian and Devonian mud, on account of the auriferous pyrites it contains, most competent geologists agree in regarding as the almost universal source of gold. This was upturned at the period of the formation of the Asiatic ridge, and at the same time was fissured and broken. The fissures, filled with quartz and pyrites, torn from the schist by the action of water, became the veins already found. Subsequently the powerful action of the glacial period gave rise to the placers which are now being worked. If this theory of the formation of auriferous alluvia, which has been verified in the other great gold-producing countries, proves true of Siberia also, then it is to the south of the localities at present worked that a systematic search for the primitive strata ought to be carried out. It is already known that the Altai contain veins of lead, silver and copper; numerous specimens of all kinds of minerals have been brought from that region by hunters and foresters. It is in these hills with their westerly continuations and in the mountainous mass which strikes out from Manchuria in a northeasterly direction that the wealth of Siberia must be sought. The chain of the Khingan mountain of gold is said to be rich in minerals, and it is doubtless from these hills and their spurs that the golden placers of the Ussuri and the Amur (lower portion) were brought. The same reasoning holds good for the hills bordering on the sea of Okhotsk.

"The great extent of the region covered with auriferous alluvia in Siberia is undoubtedly the primary cause of the difficulty experienced in examining them systematically. The impenetrable virgin forests at the north, with their luxurious vegetation, fallen trees and above all, marshy ground, prove an obstacle to geological research. It is impossible in the majority of cases to follow the different strata, recognize outcrops or ascertain the nature of the subsoil.

"It was not until 1886 that the want of a school of geology at Irkutsk made itself felt, although as far back as the year 1843 the department of mines sent Col. Hofman to Siberia to study the gold deposits. The information obtainable on the subject of Siberian placers is consequently scattered throughout a number of monographs, and until the geological committee of Siberia publishes the result of their labors it will be difficult to treat the subject comprehensively. In contrast with the great strata of the Rocky Mountains in California and British Columbia, which belong to the pretertiary period, as attested by the volcanic matter with which they are covered, the alluvia of Siberia belong to the quaternary epoch and are of recent formation.

"Siberian placers are situated in valleys having usually a gentle fall and often marshy. Their distinctive feature is that the pay dirt above bed rock is covered in the immense majority of cases with an unproductive layer of soil. Auriferous localities are also generally characterized by the presence of low rounded hills, testifying to the intensely destructive action of the atmospheric agents upon the rocky conformation of the country.

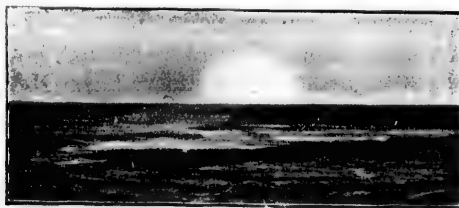
The placers are found at a moderate altitude above sea level. In the Urals they are met with at a height varying from 500 to 1,000 feet; in the Alatau mountains at 2,000 feet; in the valley of the Olekma from 2,000 to 2,500 feet; and in the Yenisei from 2,500 to 3,000 feet. In addition to native gold frequently found in nuggets, iron pyrites, often in the form of mispickel, and all the products of its decomposition, such as magnetic oxide, limonite, hematite, etc., are met with in Siberian gravels. Copper is found, sometimes native, sometimes in the form of copper pyrites; lead has been discovered as sulphate, carbonate, phosphate and sulphur. A feature altogether peculiar to the Siberian placers, especially those in the district of the Lena, Zeya, etc., is that the soil remains perpetually frost-bound or thaws only slightly during the summer time. Near the sources of the rivers the soil is not frozen; this is said to be due to warm or tepid springs beneath the surface of the earth.

The working of Siberian gold mines dates back only to the middle of the eighteenth century, at which period the first auriferous veins were discovered in the Urals and in the govern-

ment of Archangel. Gold was discovered in the Ural mountains in 1744. Several veins situated on the banks of the River Beregovka were worked with varying success from 1800. In 1895 the output was 16.46 poods (703 pounds). In the southern Urals the first gold reef was discovered in 1799. The Kothkar reef yielded in 1894 about 85 poods (3,069 pounds). Toward the close of the period 1870-1879 reefs were discovered in the government of Yenisei and the province of Transbaikalia. In 1894-95 gold-bearing strata were found in the district of Marunskaja in the government of Tomsk. In 1866 the Amur province was opened to private trade; two years later mining was commenced on the concessions belonging to the Upper Amur Mining Company, in the basin of the Djalinda. At the same period explorations were set on foot in the maritime province, and in 1891 the first gold was taken from mines belonging to a Mr. Yetukof in the basin of the Amgoun. During the season of 1897 the Amgoun Mining Company treated 10,834 cubic sagens of gravel, from which about 55 poods of gold were extracted, giving an average of 7.825 grams to a cubic meter. On the other hand, the Amur Mining Company took out of their placers 20 1-3 poods (734 pounds), showing an average of more than 17.06 grams to a cubic meter."

Mr. Greener adds:

"In 1896 the government dispatched to the shores of the Sea of Okhotsk an expedition which, according to the latest news, has found rich alluvial drifts. There have recently arrived at this port direct from the United States six practical American miners under the auspices of the Russo-Chinese bank. They are supplied with modern machinery, are men of experience, and go to the Yumen where rich discoveries are reported. These are the original 'forty-niners' of the 'New California,' and it is hoped that they will give new impetus to mining in the maritime provinces. In conversation with one of them, who last winter prospected in the Yukon, Alaska, the idea was emphasized that the whole region about Anadirski and the extreme eastern range of the Stanovi mountains, near Bering Straits, would prove as rich as the Cape Nome region, since it was analogous in its formation."



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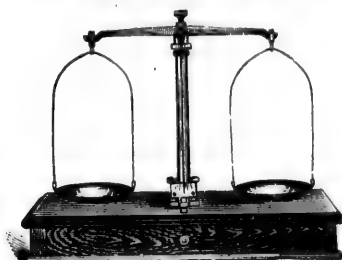
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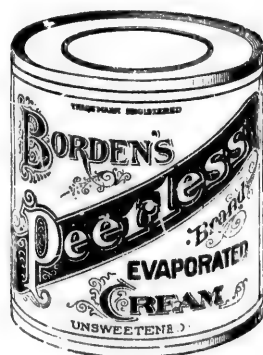
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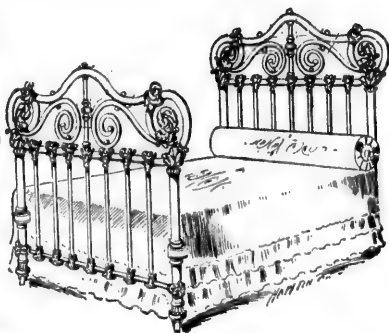
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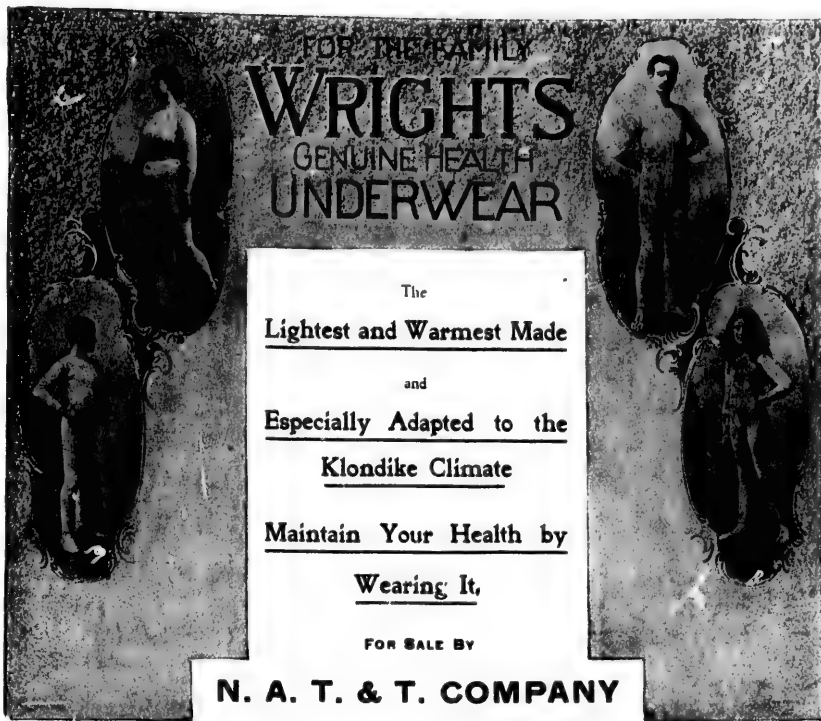
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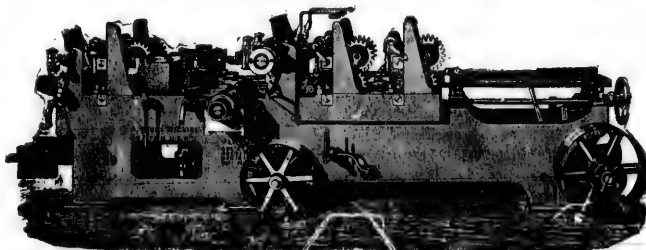
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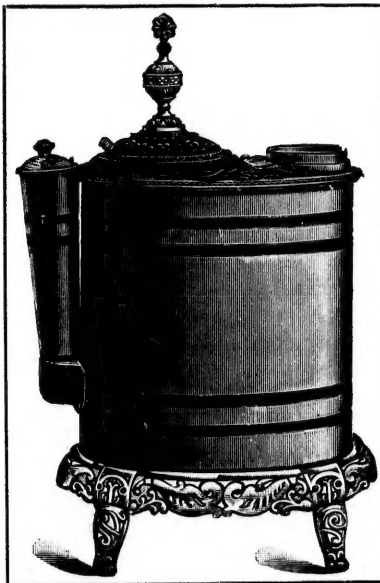
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